Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-95-082 *28 April 1995*

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ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 28 Apr

LD2804065995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0556 GMT 28 Apr 95

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 28 (ITAR-TASS)—IZVESTIYA frontpages an article about the situation in Chechnya. The main topic of the article deals with the state of affairs in the information space of the republic. The new republican newspaper Vozrozhdeniye has not been published for two weeks while the Dudayev-published Ichkeria is being circulated throughout the republic. The so-called Dudayev Television is on the air as well. Incredible rumours are rife in the republic that on May 9 Djokhar Dudayev will ride into Groznyy on a "white horse".

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA runs an article headlined "A bandit in red- striped trousers" about the activities of a racketeering boss who operated posing as a Cossack chieftain. He even managed to register a certain society named "Cossack Fraternity" in the town of Dmitrov near Moscow. After he was arrested by police for illegal actions, advocates in very high places stood up for his defence.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI frontpages an interview with Russia's State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin, who dwells on matters connected with the adoption of the first part of a Civil Code, the work on a Land Code and other documents which lay the foundations of Russian legislation.

Rybkin also shared his conception of the economic situation in the country and ways to improve it, the problems of the formation of the country's budget and a future Federative set-up of Russia.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI runs an interview with Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, leader of the socio-political movement Yabloko, who dwells on the possibility of uniting all Democratic forces at the forthcoming elections in Russia and his vision of a Democratic platform.

Yavlinskiy stated that the Yabloko movement is prepared to enter into a coalition only with truly democratic forces which agree with the Movement's views, are committed to democratic principles and repudiate the forms and methods of the present authorities' actions.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, under the rubric "Social Protection", runs an article about a new Civil Code of the Russian Federation.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (Red Star) frontpages an article about benefits for the veterans. "Over the past several months, as if making up for the lost time, Federal and local authorities seek to do something for the war veterans," the newspaper writes.

TRUD, under the rubric "Moscow and the Muscovites", runs a column of materials about the problems of the capital of Russia. The author of one of the items complains that Moscow loses its historical architectural image.

PRAVDA runs an interview with Marshal of the Soviet Union Viktor Kulikov, who will review the Victory Anniversary Parade on May 9.

The Marshal shares his point of view that a parade marking the 50th anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War should take place in the Red Square, not near the Victory memorial complex on Poklonnaya Hill. The Marshal also expresses his opinion about the present-day state of affairs in the Russian army.

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Kozyrev Interviewed on Washington Meetings

LD2804103695 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2205 GMT 27 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Khrekov and Vitaliy Chukseyev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 28 Apr—The telephone conversation which took place on Thursday between the Presidents of the United States and Russia and my meeting with Bill Clinton analyzed Russian-American relations in depth on the eve of the Moscow summit, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told the ITAR-TASS correspondents. These conversations were businesslike and constructive, and they demonstrated a mood for resolving present and future difficult questions.

The accent was placed on a most important aspect: over an unprecedentedly short time, relations between the two countries have gone from a state of confrontation to partnership in the sphere of disarmament and in the political and economic spheres, all in the space of three years. There are difficulties, he stressed; however, the partnership has been justified and has entered the stage of maturity.

The question of Russia supplying nuclear reactors to Iran is one of the spheres of disagreement. The minister stated in this connection that we can expect that a good, frank talk will take place at the Moscow summit, a talk aimed at seeking constructive solutions which take account of the interests of both sides.

The ITAR-TASS correspondents asked him to comment upon the statements by a number of Western political figures that the creation in the North Caucasus region of yet another army runs counter to the spirit and letter of the treaty on conventional arms in Europe. I would like our partners not to come forward hastily with statements without having studied our position beforehand, the minister replied. We discussed that problem in detail at the talks with Secretary of State Christopher Warren on Wednesday [26 April]. We have introduced a number of proposals to the treaty, without destroying the substance of this agreement. This document on the whole meets with our support, but it has to be combined with specific actions.

Kozyrev concentrated on the forthcoming meeting of leaders of the major countries of the world in Halifax (Canada), noting that the "eight" had already been formulated as a political institution. There are no political issues in the world which can be discussed without our participation. As far as participation in the economic round of the meeting is concerned, we are already discussing a number of such problems, such as debts, the investment climate and so on. But there are also questions which we are not required to tackle since they entail financial obligations. The present format of participation in such meetings is very advantageous for Russia.

At this stage I am satisfied with the talks which have taken place, the minister said. They have shown that the prophecies of those who predicted the inevitability of a "cold peace" and that we will start to stumble and turn off the road of partnership have been dashed. Nothing is perfect, the skies aren't always clear, but neither is their any turning away from cooperation. On the contrary, partnership is being strengthened and becoming more mature.

Regarding the forthcoming celebrations in Moscow on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the victory over German fascism, Kozyrev stressed that we should use it to pay tribute to the contribution which the Russian people made to this victory, together with the allies. This is a good time, he said, to reflect on how to build cooperation and partnership, now and in the future. The leaders of the overwhelming majority of countries have accepted the invitation to visit Moscow. However, the minister noted, there are certain individuals, for example, in the Baltic countries, who can't see the wood for the trees.

Kozyrev Expects Early U.S. Response on Treaty

LD2804114995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1025 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] WASHINGTON, D.C., April 28 (Interfax)-Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev believes that even before the Russian-American summit of May 9 and 10 Russia will know the U.S. response to its concerns over the conventional arms in Europe limitation treaty. He said so in a talk with Russian journalists who accompanied him to Washington.

We made specific proposals on the way Moscow's needs could be recognized without destroying the treaty which Russia essentially backs, Kozyrev said in commenting on his meeting with U.S. secretary of State Warren Christopher.

Russia wants the restrictions revised on forces stationed on its flanks, notably in the North Caucasian Military District. In Kozyrev's words, western rejection of the Russian proposals "will not cure the disease but will only put off the treatment."

Asked by Interfax, Kozyrev said that Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton discussed upgrading the bilateral cooperation in their telephone talk Thursday.

This issue, Kozyrev said, was also discussed in his talk with Clinton in the White House Thursday. "The press emphasizes complexities in our relations so as to add drama to their reports but we focus on more fundamental problems," he explained. In his words, the Russian-American partnership has brought about tangible results, has been a success and matures.

"A good frank talk can be expected in the Moscow summit on issues where the Russian and U.S. positions do not completely fit," Kozyrev said. "Russia and the

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U.S. will look for solutions rather than be engaged in exchange of reproaches and accusations," he continued. Kozyrev did not rule out the possibility that a solution will be worked out to the differences over supply of Russian light water nuclear reactors to Iran.

He emphasized that by accepting the invitation to come to Moscow Clinton made a wise decision which is highly appreciated by the Russian leadership. Kozyrev went on to say that the U.S. and French presidents and leaders of other countries who agreed to come to Moscow understood the basic fact that we had been allies in the war and are partners now while the presidents of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania overlooked the historic perspective and made "not the shrewdest possible move."

Kozyrev 'Scaremongering' on NATO Expansion Deplored

MM2704150095 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Apr 95 p 3

[Report by Melor Sturua: "Kozyrev Entreats Americans To Save Him From the GULAG"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Minneapolis, United States—Andrey Kozyrev has addressed a U.S.-Japanese-European forum. The written text which he delivered was absolutely precise and clear, although debatable. Kozyrev said that the expansion of NATO via the inclusion of some East European countries creates a threat to Russia's security and national interests. He had weighty grounds, although once again rather debatable ones, for declaring that this expansion of NATO may lead to the nightmare of a new confrontation.

As we can see, Andrey Kozyrev said nothing new. For a while now the aim of Russian foreign policy has been to prevent the former Warsaw Pact countries from entering NATO by all diplomatic means. But, my God, the means our foreign minister used! Departing from his prepared text, he entreated NATO not to throw open the door to East Europe in order to avoid adding grist to the mill of Russian nationalism, which, you see, may devour even him, so he would have to write his memoirs "from the GULAG." To paraphrase Napoleon, it could be said that this is worse than a mistake, it is not funny. But Kozyrev did not feel this. The nationalists, he said, are using the expansion of NATO as evidence of the failures of the Russian Government, including its foreign minister. Indicating his head, Kozyrev added: "The stones are already landing here."

Does Kozyrev really think or hope that with such lamentations he can move his NATO colleagues and soften their hardened hearts? Clearly diplomacy is too serious a business to be left to diplomats. This is not the first time our minister's wit has made his audience suspect his arguments are lightweight.

But there is another fundamentally important aspect to this topic. Literally the other day, explaining in the United Nations Russia's position regarding Iraqi dictator Saddam Husayn and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, Kozyrev remarked: "Never demonize people in politics. There are no demons in politics." An extremely fair comment, provided, of course, you do not take it to absurd lengths. But unfortunately Kozyrev himself is not following his own advice and is demonizing Russian nationalism.

In short, he is scaremongering, but people in the West are not afraid. And they are not laughing either. THE NEW YORK TIMES even described Kozyrev's departures from his prepared text as "pitiful."

Further on Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission Preparations

LD2704190095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1624 GMT 27 Apr 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] WASHINGTON, April 27 (INTERFAX)—At the fifth meeting of the Russian-American Commission for Economic and Technological Cooperation (Gore-Chernomyrdin commission) Russia intends to point to continuing discrimination against Russian goods on the American market, Mikhail Tarasov, international affairs adviser to Russia's prime Minister, told Interfax in Washington on Thursday. He is in the American capital in connection with preparations for the session.

"The Americans always protect the interests of their firms and companies, and when a delay occurs, they raise that issue at the Gore-Chernomyrdin commission without immediately," Tarasov said. "But if Russia behaves in the same way, the issue gets resolved very slowly as a rule."

As an example he referred to the situation connected with the export of Russian hunting weapons produced in Tula and Izhevsk. "The five-year program for delivering these weapons is to yield about one billion dollars, but the U.S., minding the interests of its own producers, introduced additional restrictions and established tough barriers for arms imports," Tarasov said.

"Russia was lumped with Mongolia and China, whose arms exports are banned because of their low quality," Tarasov noted.

In the meantime, he added, "this does not prevent the Americans from displaying heightened interest in certain anti-aircraft installations of Russian-make, particularly in the S-300 complex Belarus already sold to the U.S. "The Americans intend to build similar complexes with a view to selling them to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and other countries; this makes one wonder, however, as to how to correlate the striving to purchase

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anti- aircraft installations with the ban on the purchases of ordinary weapons of Russian make," Tarasov pointed out.

According to him, Russia has raised this issue at the Gore-Chernomyrdin commission more than once, and pointed to the need to conduct trade on parity conditions. "Our principle is the following: we shall open our markets, and you will open yours. We do not want your aid: just give us access to your market," Tarasov said.

Chubays Speaks at U.S. National Press Club

LD2704194195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1857 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] WASHINGTON, April 27 (INTERFAX)—Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays said he believed that in April 1995 "Russia is as close to irreversible financial-economic stabilization as never before."

He told a news conference in the U.S. National Press-Club in Washington today that the inflation rate in Russia had decreased by 2.5 times over the last four months and a half. Chubays said he was sure that the monthly inflation rate would be 2 percent or even less by the middle of the year.

Chubays said that in particular the financial-economic stabilization manifested itself in the ruble's fall against the dollar slowing down. He said Russian residents having U.S. dollars had begun exchanging them for rubles "in mass." Chubays said this was a very significant sign.

Chubays said the reserves of the Central Bank of Russia were "constantly growing." He added that "all these processes are completely controlled by the government and personally Russian President Boris Yeltsin."

When asked about the impact of events in Chechnya on the economic situation in Russia, Chubays said, "These events will by no means stimulate the inflation." He said all expenses would be carried out within the scope of the already approved budget expenditure. Chubays said that expenses on any of the budget items had not yet outgone the fixed budget expenditure.

Chubays regretted that the West failed to understand the dynamics of developments in Chechnya. He said about 250,000 people had already returned to Groznyy. Chubays said that water, gas and electric power supply would soon be fully restored in Groznyy. He said physicians and teachers had begun receiving salaries. Chubays concluded that "all this is certainly very promising".

Chubays on G-7 Position on Restructuring Debt

LD2704193695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1858 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] WASHINGTON, April 27 (INTERFAX)—The G-7 countries do not have a single position on restructuring Russia's foreign debt, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays told an Interfax correspondent in Washington today.

Chubays met with the G-7 finance ministers and banks' directors in Washington this week. He said he had discussed with them the Russian debt's restructuring. "However, I would not draw any final conclusions on the issue," Chubays said.

As it was earlier reported, the G-7 finance ministers and banks' directors had not yet unanimously agreed to restructure Russia's debt for a long term (20-25 years). Chubays said his meeting with the G-7 officials had still been useful as "during this meeting we have stated Russia's position which is very important."

Chubays said Russia would still seek that its foreign debt be restructured. He said he believed that the issue would become more clear in about a month when the meetings in the Paris Club were expected to be held.

Oleg Davydov on Boost in Trade With United States

MK2704130095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 27 Apr 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Russian Federation and United States Trade Turnover To Rise by $1 Billion"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The trade turnover between Russia and the United States will go up in 1995 by $1 billion to reach $6.5 billion, Oleg Davydov, vice premier and foreign economic relations minister, said yesterday. As the vice premier pointed out, the boost in mutual trade this year can be provided not only by the traditional exchange of Russian raw material for American food, but also through more sales of high-tech machines and equipment.

START II Hearings: 'Paradoxical Situation' Seen

MM2704155595 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Apr 95 p 3

[Report by Gennadiy Obolenskiy: "Pentagon May Stake Its All"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The discussion of questions connected with the ratification of the Treaty on Strategic Offensive Arms II [START II] is continuing in U.S. Congressional committees. In this connection, it would not be out of place to recall that the limitations and reductions of strategic offensive weapons envisaged in it, partially already implemented, have only became possible under conditions of the preservation of the 1972 ABM Treaty of unlimited duration.

This reminder is appropriate in connection with the paradoxical nature of the situation that has taken shape during the hearings. On the one hand, representatives of the Pentagon and the administration as a whole are expressing a clear desire for a real limitation of strategic

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offensive weapons (of course, primarily Russian ones). And on the other hand they want to evade observing the basic provisions of the ABM Treaty through agreeing with Russia the kind of parameters of so-called non-strategic anti-missile defense (or theater ABM) which would make this system entirely capable of settling strategic tasks too.

The idea of conducting talks on demarcating strategic and non- strategic ABM defense and agreeing on the specifications of the latter in the form of a separate accord was proposed to us by the Americans. Even the specific time schedules for conducting them were outlined. Reports have appeared to the effect that withing the Pentagon's apparatus the acceleated preparation of a draft of such an agreement has begun. But the Americans themselves unexpectedly refused to continue the talks. Why?

Undoubtedly the emergence of a republican majority in the U.S. Congress plays a fairly major role here. The Congressmen have obviously decided not to be hasty as regards expanding cooperation with Russia and will try to wring new concessions from it. And in this connection, [they have decided] not to be in any hurry with getting up the ABM accord proposed by Washington shortly beforehand.

But there is also another side to this matter. The Americans' proposals on ABM defense have proved to be in direct concontradiction to the limitations on strategic offensive arms envisaged by the START-II Treaty, and may hinder its ratification. And after all, it is extremely advantageous for the United States, and Washington is very interested in its implementation. That it why it should be expected that following the conclusion of the ratification process, the Americans proceed to additional steps to "push through" ideas in the sphere of anti-missile defense that will in fact lead to the collapse of the ABM Treaty.

Discussions can also be heard among independent American experts to the effect that once it has achieved significant reductions of Russian strategic offensive weapons, the Pentagon will stake its all, and, using its own homespun interpretations of the provisions of the ABM Treaty, will de facto stop taking it into account. Particularly since in the Pentagon's understanding, the ABM Treaty will not restrict the theater ABM. Admittedly, at the same time, the fact that this is a question of mobile ground-, sea-, and air- based ABM systems, which are banned by this treaty, is being deliberately kept quiet.

And I would like to stress the following here. Until the sides agree where the dictinction between authorized and banned activity lies in respect of such ABM systems, there are no grounds for stating unilaterally that the creation of a particular ABM theater of military operations system corresponds to the treaty and does not undermine it. Otherwise, the entire process of arms control might as well be scrapped.

Ministry 'Alarmed' by U.S. Testing of ABM Systems

LD2704161595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1421 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 27 (Interfax)—The Russian Foreign Ministry is alarmed by the fact that this year the United States has started testing new anti-missile defense systems which it has unilaterally described as non-strategic or theater anti-missile systems. The feeling was expressed at a Thursday briefing in Moscow by a ministry spokesman Nikita Matkovskiy.

He drew attention to the fact that the American side launched the tests (the latest was conducted on April 21) before the approval of an agreement distinguishing between strategic and non-strategic anti-ballistic missile [ABM] systems.

The diplomat said that since autumn 1993 the United States, Russia and CIS countries-successors of the USSR as far as the treaty is concerned have been conducting talks to prevent the possible violation or circumvention of the ABM treaty in the process of developing anti-missile systems.

According to Matkovskiy, as long as the talks have not been completed the Russian side cannot recognize the systems tested in the United States as conforming with the ABM treaty.

"The tests can be considered as the attempt of the American side to make its partners in the talks face a fait accompli. In our opinion the continuation of the policy of accomplished facts instead of an intensive search for a mutually acceptable solution can only complicate matters, if not drive them into a blind alley," the spokesman said.

U.S. Astronauts Prepare for Mir Mission

MM2804091095 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Apr 95 p 8

[Report by Viktor Gritsenko and Veronika Romanenko of ITAR-TASS: "U.S. Astronaut Prepares for Flight on Mir, When She Might Break Yelena Kondakova's Record"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Shannon Lucid, the first U.S. woman astronaut, who is to engage in lengthy work on board the Russian Mir station in 1996, and John Blaha, her backup, have been training for exactly three months at the Cosmonaut Training Center of the Russian Air Force (Zvezdnyy Gorodok).

The 145-day flight planned within the "Mir-NASA" program will be carried out by two Russian cosmonauts and one American. It will be the second joint expedition, as the first one has been taking place since 14 March 1995.

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For the first time the crew members will be put into orbit not by one craft but by different ones. The Russians Yuriy Onufriyenko and Yuriy Usachev are expected to be launched in the Soyuz TM-24 craft next December. Only in March of next year will Shannon Lucid join them on board the American Atlantis. On the other hand, Onufriyenko and Usachev will quit the Mir station almost one month before the American—in June 1996. Shannon Lucid will return to earth by Shuttle 31 July. So she will spend her last days in orbit working with a different crew, whose members include another woman—Klo[illegible] Andre-Dee [name as transliterated], a French woman.

Shannon Lucid, 52 years old, and John Blaha (his surname is stressed on the last syllable), 53, have already participated in four Shuttle flights. Lucid made her last two flights on Atlantis (August 1991) and on Columbia (October 1993) together with John Blaha, who was her commander. Shannon Lucid still holds the record for the total duration of flights for U.S. women astronauts—34 days, 22 hours, and 52 minutes. If the Russian-U.S. flight is concluded successfully, she will overtake Yelena Kondakova, who has "logged" 169 days, five hours, and 22 minutes.

Despite the fact that the astronauts already spoke good Russian at the time they arrived in Russia (they studied Russian for three months in the United States), in January they attended an intensive course in Zvezdnyy Gorodok and in March embarked on technical training. Since the astronauts will be delivered to Mir and returned to earth by Shuttle, they will study the Soyuz TM craft only to the extent necessary to operate it as part of the orbital complex, as well as on landing in the event of an emergency departure from the station or the Shuttle's failure to dock with the complex. On the other hand, the systems of the complex and, in particular, the scientific equipment of the new Spektr module, whose launch is planned for 18 May, will be studied thoroughly.

In April the astronauts underwent training for weightlessness in the Il-76MDK flying laboratory, and in May they will rehearse crew operations by landing the descent vehicle of the Soyuz craft on the water of the Medvezhi Lakes not far from Zvezdnyy Gorodok. In September the astronauts will continue training as members of crews along with the Russian cosmonauts Yuriy Onufriyenko and Yuriy Usachev (main crewmen) and Vasiliy Tsibliyev and Aleksandr Lazutkin (backups).

In January 1996 the astronauts have to undergo survival training, which could come in handy in the case of an emergency landing by Soyuz. Lucid and Blaha will be left in a corner of the forest near Moscow unknown to them for several hours or days, depending on the weather. In this way the astronauts will rehearse their actions until the arrival of rescuers.

NASA To Pay $334 Million for Five Space Flights

MM2804092495 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Apr 95 p 1

[ITAR-TASS report: "$334 Million for Five Space Flights"]

[FBIS Translated Text] NASA will pay Russia $334 million for five space flights by U.S. astronauts on the "Mir" space station between 1995 and 1997. An ITAR-TASS correspondent found this out from a source close to the space sector's leadership 26 April. The specialist emphasized that one Shuttle flight costs the United States approximately the same sum—$350 million.

Doubts Cast on NASA Contract

MK2804112095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 28 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Mikhail Chernyshov under the "Commerce" rubric: "Russian Space Agency Hopes To Make a Fast Buck. NASA Is Rumored To Be Ready To Demonstrate Unprecedented Generosity"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The ITAR-TASS news agency reported 26 April, citing "a source close to the space industry leadership," that NASA is going to pay Russia $334 million for five flights of U.S. astronauts to the "Mir" orbital station in 1995-1997.

Foreign customers paid much more modest fees to Russia for all previous commercial launches—up to $10 million plus per launch at best. Foreign researchers from West Europe or, for instance, a crown prince from Saudi Arabia paid fairly generously to the Americans, but these sums were still smaller than those NASA now allegedly intends to put up.

Chiefs of Russian space agencies have become used to complaining that currency proceeds from commercial flights do not recoup their actual costs. If the ITAR-TASS report is true, this means that the Americans are finally ready to pay a decent price for "a prolonged zero-gravity state," something they are interested in above all. It cannot be ruled out either that the "flight" section of the project also includes a provision for work involving "Alfa."

The sensational report elicits distrust, however, at least because there is no single space industry in Russia: There are the Russian Space Agency (RSA), the Military Space Forces (MSF), the Strategic Missile Forces (SMF), and some other structures anxious to achieve space orbits. Who has been promised the money and for what services in particular? Notably, the leadership of the Russian Space Agency, which traditionally maintains ties with the Americans on a "priority" basis, could not confirm or deny the ITAR-TASS information.

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U.S. Ambassador on Problems, Hopes for Ties

MM2704121595 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Apr 95 p 3

[Article by Aleksandr Golts: "While the 'Spirit of the Elbe' Lives, There Are Prospects for Our Cooperation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It so happened that on 25 April I heard two speeches by U.S. Ambassador to Russia Thomas Pickering. In the morning I heard him at a conference organized at the Diplomatic Academy to look at the prospects for Russian-U.S. relations. The ambassador outlined a range of questions that Washington considers it vital to put before the Kremlin on the eve of and, obviously, during the upcoming meeting of the two presidents. They include the two countries' fundamentally different approaches to the expansion of NATO, the Russian-Iranian project which is generating opposition from the United States, and, obviously, Chechnya. He also emphasized that the United States supports the integration processes in the CIS as long as they proceed on a sovereign and voluntary basis.

Finally, Pickering did not hide the fact that the U.S. domestic political situation, and specifically the criticism of the administration's policy in respect of Russia from many Republican congressmen, could have a negative influence on that policy. In a word, problems have appeared in our relations which will not be so simple to resolve.

But the other address given by the ambassador—in the evening, at a reception marking the 50th anniversary of the historic meeting on the Elbe—generated some hopes that this is possible. It must be said that the Americans received the Russian war veterans really warmly and sincerely in their embassy. The ambassador was just as sincere when he spoke about the traditions of friendship and cooperation between the two great countries which arose during those difficult years and the great sacrifices that we bore for the sake of Victory. These ideas were also to be heard in the address given by Army General Vladimir Govorov. I think that while the memory of the Elbe lives—a memory which decades of mutual alienation have not canceled out—Russia and the United States will be able to coordinate their interests and reach agreement even on the most acute problems.

Commentary on Outcome of U.S.-DPRK Talks

SK2804035495 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in Korean 1200 GMT 27 Apr 95

[Commentary by Aleksey Kondratyev from the "Today's World" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a report from [words indistinct], the United States has proposed to the DPRK to hold higher-level U.S.-DPRK negotiations on the issue of supplying light-water reactors. However, the DPRK has yet to respond to this proposal.

In this connection, station commentator Aleksey Kondratyev reports as follows:

Quoting the letter of Kang Sok-chu, first vice minister of the DPRK Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to the U.S. Department of State, a Tokyo source reported that Pyongyang has not yet sent a definite reply to the U.S. proposal. Meanwhile, an ROK source reported that Pyongyang had agreed in principle to the U.S. proposal to continue the talks.

The surfacing of these conflicting news reports are an indication of the difficulty with which the DPRK-U.S. dialogue have proceeded. The third round of negotiations began in Berlin on 25 March and ended on 20 April after numerous periods of recess. According to the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework signed last year, a final settlement of the issue of supplying light-water reactors had to be made by 21 April. However, the Berlin negotiations failed to bring about any results. The negotiations ended without reaching any agreement as the United States imposed [kangyo] ROK-model light-water reactors and Pyongyang resolutely opposed them.

Now, what is the way out of such a stalemate?

The United States has proposed holding higher-level talks. The United States has also said that it is ready even to advance a compromise proposal regarding the issue of supplying light-water reactors. But, the United States has not revealed the details of the said compromise proposal.

According to the remarks of the DPRK ambassador to Moscow, Pyongyang believes that it should receive at least one Russian-model light-water reactor. The DPRK ambassador noted that an agreement was made between the former Soviet Union and the DPRK as early as in 1985, regarding the construction of a light-water reactor-equipped atomic power plant. Moscow has declared many times that it is ready to supply light-water reactors to the DPRK.

Washington should have accepted Pyongyang's opinion during the negotiations. Only by so doing would it have found a way out of this stalemate.

This problem, however, has yet to find a means for a solution.

In the meantime, the DPRK repeatedly declares that it will not tolerate the pressure by foreign forces against it.

DPRK Not Buying Russian Weapons 'At the Moment'

MM2704120695 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Apr 95 p 3

[Report by Sergey Sidorov: "DPRK Is Not Buying Weapons in Russia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite the fact that the Cold War is over, the situation on the Korean peninsula remains complex. This is forcing the Korean People's

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Army to maintain combat readiness at a high level. Senior Colonel Ro Syn Ir [name as transliterated], military, naval, and air force attache at the DPRK embassy in Moscow, stated this to journalists. The meeting was devoted to Korean People's Army Day.

According to the military diplomat, in the year of the 63d anniversary of the Korean People's Army, the country's leadership "is pursuing the line of the Army's modernization, the military training of the entire people, and the strengthening not only of possible combat action areas, but also the rear services." When asked about the DPRK's interest in buying modern defense systems in Russia, Ro Syn Ir answered as follows: At the moment we are not buying weapons in Russia. As far as future cooperation in this sphere is concerned, this will depend on the will of the Russian Government and our solvency.

Iran Reactor Cannot Produce Weapon-Grade Plutonium

MM2704135895 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 16 Apr 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast: Video conversation on reactor deal with Iran by A. Peslyak and Ye. Reshetnikov, Russian Federation deputy minister of atomic energy]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Peslyak] According to expert opinion a light water reactor, such as the Kalinin nuclear power station reactor and the reactor which the Iranians want to buy from us, cannot be used to manufacture an atom bomb. Protesting our agreement with Iran, the United States and Aleksey Yablokov, a corresponding member of the [Russian] Academy of Sciences, in his 12 April IZVESTIYA article, cite this as the main threat. And so, how easy is it to obtain weapon-grade plutonium?

[Ye. Reshetnikov] In order to obtain weapon-grade plutonium it is necessary to build a plant such as the one in Krasnoyarsk or near Chelyabinsk in our country.

[Peslyak] Yablokov claims that it can be done in any laboratory.

[Reshetnikov] You must imagine a four-meter rod which has been cut up into small pieces and put through a vast system of chemical processing to extract what you want. This is a question of a large-scale industry which cannot be hidden. This has been confirmed by all the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] experts.

[Peslyak] The author of the IZVESTIYA article claims that it was the Americans who have prevented nuclear weapon proliferation in Iraq and North Korea.

[Reshetnikov] The first to sound the alarm were IAEA inspectors who reported that there was a heavy-water reactor and that four fuel rods were missing. Thus IAEA monitoring is relatively efficient. Mr. Yablokov further asks whether it was we who trained the Iranians. Well, we certainly did not. After all, who built the industry they have, the experimental base which they have? It was the Americans, the French, and the Germans. The Russians have not trained a single Iranian physicist.

Yeltsin Comments on Relations With Ukraine

LD2704161195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1537 GMT 27 Apr 95

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 26 (INTERFAX)—Presidents of Russia and Ukraine Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kuchma will meet during May 9 ceremonies in Moscow to discuss a number of key issues, Yeltsin told reporters in Moscow on Wednesday [26 April].

On Kuchma's latest tough statements on the Black Sea Fleet and Sevastopol, he said "we can speak even tougher than that, but our relationship must be based on cooperation".

Yeltsin Grants Interview to TIME Magazine

LD2804103795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1013 GMT 28 Apr 95

[By Andrey Serov and Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 28 (ITAR-TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Friday morning met TIME managing editor James Gaines, managing editor, TIME International Karsten Prager and Moscow bureau Chief John Kohan in the Kremlin.

The President's press secretary Sergey Medvedev, who attended the meeting, said the Russian President's conversation with the TIME editors lasted about forty minutes and was extremely intense.

The first question asked by the TIME editors was about the telephone conversation between Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton on Thursday.

President Boris Yeltsin told American editors in general features about the subjects he intended to discuss during his talks with President Clinton in Moscow and about prospects for bilateral relations.

A question relating to the forthcoming celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the victory in Europe had a personal angle to it: the Americans wandered whether any of Boris Yeltsin's relatives took part in the war.

The President showed the visitors the Book of Memory of the Sverlodvsk region, where he was born. The book lists seven Yeltsins, six of whom were the President's relative.

The TIME editors naturally asked questions about the Chechnya problem. Boris Yeltsin told them he had signed an edict concerning a moratorium on combat activities in Chechnya from April 28 to May 12, 1995. He expressed confidence that the Federal forces assigned

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the task of restoring law and order in the Chechen republic will manage to suppress all possible attempts at staging acts of provocation by Dudayev militants.

Yeltsin also said work was in full swing to restore the economy badly shaken under Dudayev and in the course of liquidating his armed gangs.

Boris Yeltsin also commented on preparations for the forthcoming parliamentary elections in Russia. He said two democratically- minded election alliances were being formed in the country. One will be headed by Government Chairman Viktor Chernomyrdin, and the other by State Duma speaker Ivan Rybkin.

According to Yeltsin, the two alliances can be seen as a prototype of a bipartisan system likely to emerge in Russia and effectively functioning in the United States and some other countries.

Sergey Medvedev said Boris Yeltsin handed over to the American editors his replies in writing to the TIME weekly questions. TIME managing editor James Gaines said the interview with Boris Yeltsin would be published in the weekly's next issue which is due to appear on May 1.

Yeltsin Aide Disputes 'Factions' Forecast

MM2804082195 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Apr 95 p 4

[Article by Yuriy Baturin, national security adviser to the Russian Federation president, and Oleg Dobrocheyev, staffer at the Kurchatov Institute Russian Scientific Center: "Russia Is Not Quite So Fatally Doomed to Stability. Among Other Things, the American Crisis Could Hamper It"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The forecast of our country's political development according to the CIA's "Factions" methodology that was published in IZVESTIYA recently (5 April 1995, No. 62) is, for a number of reasons, worthy of more attention than the public has paid it, even despite a headline that was unusually optimistic for nowadays—"Russia Doomed to Stability."

The forecast is interesting, first, as a document that could be a "substantial factor influencing the elaboration of the foreign policy course" of the United States toward our country (as the author of the above-mentioned article assures us).

Second, as information aimed at convincing us that these are indeed the conclusions that will form the basis of the formation of U.S. policy toward Russia (a sort of reflexive manipulation: "Let them think that we think..."). IZVESTIYA's interim conclusion is characteristic: " There are substantial grounds to suggest that the assessments made by us with our U.S. partners will be borne in mind during preparations for B. Clinton's May visit to Moscow."

Third, it is, to some extent, an outsider's view of Russia's development prospects.

But how valid, from the scientific viewpoint, is the proposed method of modeling political processes? How far can the forecast that is presented be relied on?

Bright Forecasts

Let us begin with the scientific aspect of the problem. Even from indirect signs contained in the newspaper item, it is possible to assess the methodological merits of "Factions."

The first important aspect of this model lies in its subtext, whereby it is deemed possible in principle to give an adequate formal expression to the dynamics of political processes. Our own research confirms this view on the basis of a series of models of sociopolitical phenomena (see, for instance, STOLITSA, 1994, No. 3) which for a long time had been examined both in our country and abroad in a purely qualitative plane.

Something else is more important.

Society can be compared figuratively to white light, which is actually a "mixture" of all the colors of the rainbow. It can be broken up into a spectrum—a broad range of shades of different properties or conditions of the country's political, economic, and social system.

The "Factions" methodology is notable for just such a method of presentation, in which the parameters of the condition of society that reflect the political structure and the sociopolitical system are broken up into a spectrum by a kind of "prism"—by the experts' intellect.

This approach is certainly strictly scientific. The main practical problem with this way of describing social processes is the breadth of the spectrum necessary and sufficient to build reliable forecasts. The fact that in the American model the spectrum of the main political forces is constructed on the basis of 100 points testifies to the date of its formulation—the early eighties. Since then, many new ideas have emerged, making it possible substantially to improve models of sociopolitical processes.

It is quite clear that the Americans are hardly likely to show off the latest developments, still less to publish them in the foreign press (in fact, we ourselves act in the same way). That being so, the above hypothesis on a gentle reflexive manipulation becomes by no means unfounded. We must not lose sight of the possibility of our being pushed toward a certain choice, orientation, or suggestion that is made not "point-blank," so to speak, but fairly transparently.

But there is no danger in that provided the nature of the game is understood.

But let us give due credit to the merits of "Factions." First and foremost, for the measuring of processes in three perspectives: those of the leading economic sectors,

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regions, and politicians. Each of these active forces in society's development has its own orientation and its own "weight."

At the same time, in the article published in IZVESTIYA we did not find any information (except for the fact of Russian experts having been invited) casting light on the way in which the national and cultural peculiarities of the country that is the subject of the forecast are taken into account, especially in the case of a country like Russia. Obviously, for relatively short periods of development this requirement is not so important, since the necessary information is present in the initial data. But in a more general case this factor becomes highly significant and needs to be included in the model.

Are such models applicable to the analysis of the transitional processes taking place, for instance, in our country? Not such a trivial question.

On the one hand, for brief periods of evolutionary development, even the simpler models can be used. On the other, in order to describe certain political changes of a qualitative nature it is necessary to use a significantly larger number of parameters or, in "Factions" terminology, to take account of an exceptionally wide spectrum of political forces. This makes doing the job by the "Factions" methodology an extremely labor-intensive and therefore unrealistic process.

Therefore, despite all the merits noted, certain conclusions obtained through the "Factions" program must be treated with caution.

After the "Point of No Return"

Let us now look at the content of the results of the analysis. Some of these results are fully confirmed by our own calculations.

The finding on the irreversibility of the sociopolitical changes that have taken place in our country seems important to us. However, depending on context, this finding needs clarification. The point of fundamental transition, the possibility of return to a highly centralized, closed society, was passed in the fall of 1994 (according to our calculations). And indeed, a number of critical events in the fall did not lead to a change of direction. At the same time, the inherently unstable, vacillatory nature of social development always allows for the possibility of retreat, although usually on a smaller scale. The fact that Russian society was informed of the forecast of the Russian situation carried out according to "Factions" methodology only after the "point of no return" is an eloquent illustration of the model's limited potential. Such means of quantitative analysis of political processes are applicable mainly to the evolutionary stages of a society's development, and certainly not to transitional stages, still less crisis stages.

The conclusion that the "Russian president has done his job" also seems an overly categorical interpretation of the results of a study which essentially deals in probabilities. According to our forecasts, in the fall of 1995 the country's sociopolitical system will approach a new quality, which implies the possibility of structural changes, course corrections, and so forth. As a rule such special conditions are resolved by recently emerged internal forces. Long-term forecasts regarding their development can relate only to general trends, not to specific details, still less individuals. As an illustration you need only recall how events and forecasts went in the 1993 elections. It is well known that more [or] less accurate forecasts appeared only two weeks [before the elections]. We think that in these sort of political maelstroms software such as "Factions" is extremely inaccurate.

Will It Prove Possible To Reduce the "Temperature"?

How do we see the future development of the situation in the country in the light of our attempts to model sociopolitical processes?

Developments in 1995 will be marked by the most significant spell of "bad weather" in the entire period of reform. But the fact that the burdens ("precipitation") will be greatly spread out in time (there will probably be a bit more in the final quarter of the year) will alleviate our perception of adversity. There are quite a few circumstances conducive to this. They include the tremendous experience accumulated by state structures in recent years in tracking and correcting developing crisis processes. As an illustration we can cite the comparatively stable development of the currency market during the hardest period shown by statistics over many years—winter of this year—achieved for the first time in all the years of reform thanks to the efforts of the Central Bank and the government. So there are objective possibilities of keeping the average "temperature" during this "adverse weather" at a relatively low level (although quantitative analysis of our data indicates that there will still be a few peaks on the country's political spectrum in the immediate future). The momentum of instability will be conserved. It will take time to overcome it.

We have obtained our latest evaluations from study of the dynamics of one quite strictly defined indicator of stability—the state of the political climate in society. This parameter, in turn, is calculated on the basis of demographic statistics, indicators of the level of crime, and so forth.

The qualitative content of the concept of climate is connected with its prognostic potential. Like the natural climate, society's political climate establishes its predisposition toward social and political actions directed either toward ensuring society's stability or toward heightening its instability. The analogy between the natural and the political climates has not only a qualitative basis. They are also united by the probabilistic response of natural and social systems to particular changes in climate.

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The fewest indicators of stability were registered in 1994. Of late there has been a tendency toward an increase in them, which in combination with modeling experiments has enabled us to draw up forecasts for the future.

Stable progress toward social and political equilibrium, according to our calculations, is possible from 1997 simultaneously with the start of a long-term industrial upswing, but the attainment of substantially positive values in indicators of stability is expected no earlier than 2002, no matter what contenders for top state posts promise in the heat of election battle.

According to our assessments, the most dynamic phase of the country's industrial upswing may lead in 2006 to the attainment at long last of a living standard comparable with the industrially developed countries of the world.

Russia's progress toward stable equilibrium and economic affluence may be hampered by the crisis in the United States expected at the turn of the millennium. We should make the proviso that the shortage of statistics at the authors' disposal and the secondary nature of this direction in our studies do not make it possible to draw as categorical conclusions regarding the United States as the "Factions" experts drew regarding our country.

The results of our studies of certain aspects of American civilization indicate that in the first half of the eighties the United States entered a new phase in its technological development qualitatively different from the preceding 50 years or so in the country's history. The tendency toward instability inherent in this phase may in time develop into a serious socioeconomic crisis. We are not talking about a crisis like the "Great Depression," of course. We do not even make any assumptions about its depth, especially as it is more appropriate to deal with our own "domestic" crises. ("All happy families resemble each other, but each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.")

The Russian economy's close linkage to the world economy may in this instance turn into the other side of the coin (although a tendency toward isolation in the modern world is even more futile). An emerging priority in Russia's foreign policy is the need to formulate a new blueprint for relations with the centers shaping the world economy, particularly the United States.

The mutual interest in prospects of stable development is a fundamentally new element in relations between our countries. Within the framework of solving this global problem of world order our country will be able to offer a very particular type of "humanitarian aid" to the United States. Russia's unique experience regarding crisis development in the 20th century may prove handy for the United States on the threshold of the new millennium.

Further on State Duma Chairman's Visit to Japan

Rybkin, Kono View Kurils Dispute

LD2704144595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1324 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TOKYO, April 27 (ITAR-TASS)—Expansion of trade and economic relations between Russia and Japan can help settle the territorial dispute about the South Kuril islands, State Duma chairman Ivan Rybkin told Japan Foreign Minister Yohei Kono during their conversation here today.

Ivan Rybkin, who is leading a Russian parliamentarian delegation on its visit to Tokyo, assured Japanese officials that he would make all possible efforts to resolve the outstanding problems between Moscow and Tokyo in order to facilitate their rapprochement and bring the two sides closer to the signing of the peace treaty. He said the groundwork for such efforts should be provided by the development of bilateral trade and economic relations.

Rybkin also spoke in favour of setting up as soon as possible an intergovernmental Russian-Japanese economic mission in line with the accord reached during First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets' visit to Tokyo last November.

Yohei Kono agreed that disputes should be settled on the basis of the Tokyo declaration but said that Tokyo remained committed to the principle of "expanding balance" in its relations with Moscow, implying that the development of economic relations should proceed in line with concomitant progress in the political sphere, i.e. the progressive settlement of the dispute over the Kuril islands.

Rybkin Comments on Planned Elections

LD2704151395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1336 GMT 27 Mar 95

[By Aleksandr Kopnov]

[FBIS Translated Text] TOKYO, April 27 (ITAR-TASS)—The speaker of the State Duma, Russia's lower house of parliament, said the proposed presidential and parliamentary elections in Russia would be held at the scheduled date.

Upon arriving in Tokyo on Thursday as head of a Russian parliamentary delegation, Ivan Rybkin noted, "We have a constitution, and elections will be held in full compliance with its provisions".

"It is true that a law on election has not yet been passed", the speaker admitted. "However, I believe even if the Federation Council (parliament's upper house) fails to consider it in time for some reason, the President will sign what the State Duma has passed".

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Rybkin on Talks With Murayama

LD2804053395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0446 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TOKYO April 28 (ITAR-TASS)—Russia's State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin, who is currently here on a visit at the head of a Duma delegation, has described as constructive Friday's meeting between a group of Russiam parliamentarians and Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama. In an Itar-Tass interview, Rybkin expressed full satisfaction with a conversation with the Japanese premier, during which "fundamental matters of bilateral relations were touched upon".

The Duma Speaker said the Japanese side touched upon the question of a solution to the territorial problem in Russo-Japanese relations. The South Kuril Islands was also discussed during Thursday's meetings of the Russian parliamentary delegation and Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono and Head of the Lower House of Parliament Takako Doi.

"The conversation with the Prime Minister was friendly and constructive. A number of matters aimed at developing cooperation between our two countries were discussed and agreement was reached on a continuation of the practice of exchanges of parliamentary delegations of Russia and Japan," Vladimir Lukin, Chairman of the Duma Committee on International Affairs, said at the close of the Russian MPs' meeting with Mr. Murayama.

Ministry's 'Evasive Answer' on NEWSWEEK Reporter

LD2704162795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1509 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 27 (INTERFAX)—At a Thursday briefing in Moscow the official spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry Nikita Matkovskiy gave an evasive answer to an Interfax question about the attitude of the ministry to the incident involving a Newsweek correspondent Steve Levine.

On Tuesday the journalist on a flight from Tbilisi to Almaty via Moscow was not permitted to Russia by the border service.

Matkovskiy said only that his ministry had working contacts on the issue with the U.S. Embassy in Moscow adding that an appropriate division of the ministry is checking all the related circumstances.

According to one of the explanations earlier given by the Foreign Ministry, Levine was refused entry to Russia on the basis of an agreement on the mutual recognition of visas between CIS countries. The sides agreed not to grant visas to foreigners who had been denied entry to any of the member-countries. Last year the correspondent was expelled from Uzbekistan.

Meanwhile, Interfax learned from sources in the Foreign Ministry that an unofficial taboo was imposed on the case at the ministry Thursday. Ministry workers were told to avoid contacts with the press and evade answers to questions related to the matter.

According to a source, the steps were taken because of the delicate nature of the matter especially in the light of the coming visit of President Bill Clinton to Moscow for V-E Day festivities and his talks with President Boris Yeltsin.

Foreign Ministry Official on Support for NPT

LD2704163295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1509 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 27 (Interfax)—Russia supports "limitless and unconditional extension of the [Nuclear] Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT]" at a conference on the issue in New York, the first deputy director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's security and disarmament department, Mikhail Kokeyev, told a news conference in Moscow Thursday.

According to Kokeyev, "the overwhelming majority" of 178 states represented at the conference supported extending the document as they understand its significance "for the non-proliferation of nuclear arms, prevention of arms race and cooperation in using nuclear energy in peaceful purposes."

Kokeyev said "if the treaty is not extended, this will affect both regional and global-scale security as well as possible prospects for the universal disarmament."

Kokeyev said the conference was already working at a treaty adoption mechanism, whether they will vote openly or in private.

Kokeyev remarked that Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stood by the open ballot, because "each state has to assume historical responsibility."

According to U.S. experts, 95 out of 178 states had supported the treaty's extension on April 25. Another 32 states are inclined to follow suit, while 24 states are unambiguously against.

Ministry Official Views Security in Tajikistan

LD2804083495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0716 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 28 (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian border troops will continue to take all possible measures and use all necessary forces and means to secure their own safety and suppress any unlawful actions undertaken from across the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan, a Russian Foreign Ministry official said in the statement received by Itar-Tass.

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The statement stresses that "the Russian side which sincerely wishes an overall political settlement in Tajikistan, national reconciliation and guaranteed peace and stability, first of all, on the Tajik-Afghan border, has been doing everything in its power to ensure the development and success of negotiations between the government of the republic of Tajikistan and the opposition, and is prepared to help the fulfilment of the reached accords".

Meanwhile, in Moscow the delegations from the government of Tajikistan and the opposition agreed that the mixed commission from the government and the opposition and U.N. military observers would monitor the movement of the Tajik opposition armed forces on Afghan territory upon obtaining official permission from Afghan authorities.

Dushanbe declared its readiness to extend the term of the ceasefire agreement concerning the Afghan-Tajik border indefinitely and unilaterally along with the term of the agreement on terminating all hostilities inside the republic.

Ministry Favors Gradual Withdrawal From Moldova

LD2804092795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0911 GMT 28 Apr 95

[By Yuriy Kozlov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 28 (ITAR-TASS)—There can be no hasty pull-out of Russian troops from Moldovan territory at present, Russian Foreign Ministry official Nikita Matkovskiy told Itar-Tass responding to a request to comment on the State Duma resolution of April 28 [date as received] concerning the situation around the 14th Army currently stationed in Moldova's Transdniester region.

Matkovskiy said that in principle it was not within the competence of the Foreign Ministry to comment on acts and resolutions of the legislative branch of power. He said the task was made all the more difficult by the fact that the Foreign Ministry had not yet received the official text of the Duma Resolution.

"As concerns the core of the matter, I would like to stress first of all, that we proceed from the recognition of Moldova's independence and sovereignty, and the inadmissibility of intervention in its domestic affairs. The development of genuine friendly relations with Moldova meets Russia's vital interests," Matkovskiy said.

The intergovernmental agreement signed in Moscow on October 1, 1994, concerning the legal status, procedure and schedule for the withdrawal of the Russian armed forces temporarily stationed on the territory of Moldova, as well as the subsequently signed additional documents to the same effect, created a legal framework for the stationing of the 14th Army in Moldova and made groundless any speculations about the meaning and character of its presence there, the Foreign Ministry official said.

In keeping with mutual understanding, the Russian troops will be withdrawn from Moldovan territory without haste, on a step-by-step basis during the period of three years from the moment the above agreement comes into force, he said.

The period was determined taking into account the organisational, technical and financial problems associated with the withdrawal of the 14th Army.

The withdrawal will begin with the pull-out of some units which are of no vital importance to the Army's functioning and combat ability, Matkovskiy said.

The Foreign Ministry official further stressed the importance of the accord laid down in the agreement concerning practical steps for the withdrawal of the troops. They will be taken concomitantly with the political settlement of the conflict over Transdniester region.

Russia will continue to mediate, jointly with the OSCE mission, political dialogue between Chisinau and Tiraspol in which much depends on the good will, activity and readiness to look for compromise solutions on the part of the two conflicting parties, the official said.

He stressed the need for carrying out this complex and painstaking work "in a businesslike, constructive manner and in a quiet situation without emotional outbursts", proceeding from long- term interests of both Russia and Moldova, including its Transdniester region.

As concerns the possible restructuring of the command of the 14th Army, the Russian official said that making decisions on this and on the Army commander, General Aleksandr Lebed falls within the competence of the Russian Defence Minister. He expressed the hope that the decisions will be made upon due consideration of all interests involved.

'Great Satisfaction' With NAM Guest Status

LD2704185195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1650 GMT 27 Apr 95

[By Vladimir Suprun and Andrey Rubin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 27 (ITAR-TASS)—The news about Russia having been granted guest status in the Non-Alligned Movement (NAM) forums during its coordination Bureau session of Foreign ministers, underway in Bandung (Indonesia), was

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received in Moscow with great satisfaction, Nikita Matkovskiy, Russian Foreign ministry spokesman, said during a briefing held today.

According to the diplomat, the Bandung philosophy and principles of non-alligned movement are dear to new Russia. Moscow highly appreciates that under new conditions the NAM is making a significant contribution to the cause of finding solutions to topical global problems and regional security, disarmament, and pays attention to questions of the development, ecology, fight against terrorrism and drug trafficking, he said.

We are prepared for a broader cooperation with the community of the non-alligned states in all these fields, Matkovskiy said.

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Political Issues

Chernomyrdin Lists Aims of New Electoral Movement

LD2704085695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0817 GMT 27 Apr 95

[By Yevgeniy Tkachenko and Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Magnitogorsk, April 27 (Itar-Tass)—The election campaign of the group headed by the Prime Minister has in the final account one aim—to form a government backed by a majority in the parliament, a government that would be able not only to promise but also to keep its word, Russian premier Victor Chernomyrdin told war and labour veterans in the Urals today.

"We want to build a strong electoral movement in order to be able to ensure stability in the country and give it a normal, effective government," the Prime Minister said.

"It will be a broad-based coalition bringing together people who know the complex problems of running the economy, the state, finances and entrepreneurship not only from hearsay. The new electoral movement's prime task is to unify Russia on the basis of constitutional principles. We must not allow regions to be drawn apart in all directions. And our approach is already meeting with support in regions," Chernomyrdin said.

"Our aim is to strengthen the defence capability of this great country and raise its international prestige. Our people deserve a better life. With this in view, myself and the like-minded people in the government, the Federal Council, in the regions, in the industry and in public organisations decided to form an election movement which will give the voters a chance to make their choice in favour of security, stability and development," the Prime Minister said.

Further Chernomyrdin Comment

LD2704182495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1629 GMT 27 Apr 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and his associates in the cabinet, in the Federal Assembly, "in the regions and public organizations have decided to set up an election alliance so that citizens could properly choose security, stability, and development." Chernomyrdin declared this at a rally of world war two veterans held in Magnitogorsk (the Chelyabinsk region, Urals) on Thursday under the motto "Rear to Front".

"We live in society that keeps going hot and cold all the time. We are in a rush all the time. We should be more balanced and need to be closer to the center," Chernomyrdin said.

"Politics is a too serious business to be farmed out to 'pure' politicians alone", he went on to say, adding that "this is especially important for our country now when voters are quite often palmed off on a false alternative between this or that small grouping."

Chernomyrdin stressed that the election movement he was forming would represent a broad coalition with "real interests" behind it. This movement, according to the premier, will unite "businessmen who are familiar with the most complex problems of economics, state management, finances, and free enterprise not by hearsay."

Chernomyrdin declared that "the uppermost task" of the new election movement was to unite Russia on the basis of constitutional principles so that "regions would not be allowed to be taken away to different corners."

According to the prime minister, there is yet another task for the movement after elections to the State Duma, and this is to form "a government, relying on the parliamentary majority, capable of solving in a clear-cut way and technologically the tasks of restoring the Russian economy and proceeding to economic growth." Among other goals of the movement, Chernomyrdin called "the consolidation of the defence potential of our great country and the buildup of its international prestige."

Big Business Begins To Back Chernomyrdin

MK2704100095 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Rustam Sabirov under the "Intrigue" rubric: "The President, the Premier, and the Speaker Are To Form a Party of Power. Big Business Is Getting Down to Energetic Actions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In early spring 1995, representatives of big financial and industrial business, having reliable contacts in the Presidential Security Service (SBP) and not linked with the fuel and energy complex, began to put out feelers to clarify the plans of Viktor Chernomyrdin's government for 1995-1996.

Interest was shown as to whether Mr. Chernomyrdin has his own political ambitions and would be ready to realize them. In this connection, his attitude toward Aleksandr Korzhakov, the SBP's head, was assessed. There were doubts as to whether the candidature of First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets is appropriate enough for tasking him with implementation of large political and economic projects.

Such activity may signify that the competing groups of Korzhakov- Soskovets and Chernomyrdin-Chubays have started to size up one another in order to consider all possible variants of interaction for this year. Of course, this could not have passed unnoticed by the Russian financial and industrial oligarchy.

A careful probing of the premier's plans and intentions helped to identify potential political supporters of Viktor

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Chernomyrdin in order to incorporate them into the system of relations that could start forming if an agreement is reached between him and Mr. Korzhakov.

One cannot say for sure whether these attempts have been initiated by this or that side of the possible alliance. Quite the contrary, such an overview is more likely to indicate that neither side is behind this. Most probably, these secret consultations reflect the concern of some Russian business groups over the probability of such an agreement and its possible implications, taking into consideration the forthcoming election campaign of 1995-1996.

It is also transparent that there is a wish to activate Chernomyrdin to curb the state-capitalism expansion of Soskovets and his financial and industrial group "Transnational Aluminum Company."

The latest information saying that Viktor Chernomyrdin is ready to head a center-right electoral bloc will hardly add clarity as regards his actual ambitions for power. Super-careful Viktor Stepanovich's actions are immaculate: Until now, everything he has been doing fits in with a demonstration of loyalty to the present president.

One can only suppose the following:

—the dragging of the prime minister into big politics (whether in accordance with his, already expressed, will or with his noncommittal connivance) will not be confined to settling problems of the parliamentary election campaign;

—the assessments of this political figure's potential and prospects (even without taking into consideration the essence of Article 92 of the Russian Federation's Constitution) have long been not quite adequate;

—the big business does not intend to place all its eggs in one basket, and has started to distribute them actively among the available crates.

It seems that a no-lose version of this game has already been secured for him.

Yeltsin Aide: Two Blocs Form Stabilizing Factor

MK2804093095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 28 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Yelena Tregubova under the "Clarifications" rubric: "Georgiy Satarov: 'Two Blocs Will Stabilize the Country.' Messrs. Chernomyrdin, Rybkin 'Possibly' Seen as Successors by President"]

[FBIS Translated Text] If "the idea of two blocs" is realized, presidential adviser Georgiy Satarov said at yesterday's news conference, "this will resolve a dramatic antinomy that has currently seized human minds: On one hand, one would like to hold elections; on the other, one is fearful that this might inflame the entire political system." Once two formidable centrist blocs are actually established, he believes, "even" presidential elections "will cease to be a choice between stability and a universal collapse." Those advocating "an adjustment" of reform will "have to seek that within an established political system."

Mr. Satarov described the difference between the emerging left- of-center and right-of-center blocs as follows: "Clearly, Chernomyrdin is the continuation of the current line, economic stabilization, and betting on successful economic partners. Rybkin, for his part, means increasing assistance to unsuccessful economic partners."

The presidential aide assured journalists that presently Boris Yeltsin is "greatly interested" in holding parliamentary elections—"to an even greater extent than in implementing his formula for Duma elections," that is, 125 deputies on party tickets and 175 in majority districts. For this reason, Georgiy Satarov promised, the president will, "too all appearances, sign any" compromise version of the law on Duma elections on which the upper and lower chambers may agree, and is even ready to mediate in their talks.

Mr. Satarov expects "much fiercer battles" over the law on forming the Federation Council. The State Duma has passed a bill calling for direct elections for the Federation Council. Georgiy Satarov is certain that this is clearly at odds with the Constitution, which stipulates that the Senate must be formed of representatives of each region's executive and legislative authorities. The incumbent Federation Council, which consists for the most part precisely of representatives of local authorities, will insist on the right to enter the Senate ex officio. Judging from Mr. Satarov's words, the president, too, will back this arrangement: "This will stabilize the situation."

With regard to presidential elections, Georgiy Satarov assured journalists that Boris Yeltsin "has not yet told him either whether he is going to run for reelection." After the news conference, in the lobby, the presidential aide hinted to correspondents that Viktor Chernomyrdin and Ivan Rybkin have become heads of new blocs because they are "possibly" seen as presidential successors.

Agriculture Minister on Chechnya, Electoral Blocs

MK2804130095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 28 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Mikhail Lantsman under the "Field" rubric: "Aleksandr Nazarchuk Rebuts Viktor Chernomyrdin's Statement. If Farmers So Demand, Agrarian Faction Will Raise the Question of No-Confidence in Government"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Agriculture Minister Aleksandr Nazarchuk announced at yesterday's conference: "Nature cannot wait until hostilities cease in Chechnya." He has already visited Groznyy twice so as to get down to restoring the republic's agro- industrial sector on the

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spot in liberated areas. Unfortunately, Mr. Nazarchuk noted, during the three years of Dudayev's rule, commodity production in the state agro-industrial sector has been fully disrupted: Equipment has been misappropriated, all public cattle have been moved to "private quarters." The government of Salambek Khadzhiyev has tried to select new collective farm chiefs, but later decided to put organizational and legal matters off and focused on solving the problems of food self-sufficiency.

According to Mr. Nazarchuk, the Russian Agriculture Ministry has done its utmost for field work in Chechnya to be carried out within a period set by nature. A total of 150 tractors, 100 combines, and 50 trucks worth 27 billion rubles [R] have been delivered to the republic under leasing contracts along with R19 billion rubles worth of fuel and lubricants. As of today, 77,000 hectares of arable land out of the 100,000 hectares planned have been sown with crops. The Agriculture Ministry has sent R73 billion to Chechnya in investment to restore the agro-industrial infrastructure. The minister also expects the Russian Federation Government to allocate R400 billion from the state budget to construct housing in the countryside. By Mr. Nazarchuk's estimate, the Chechen agro-industrial sector is better equipped with materials, machinery, and seeds than average Russian farms.

But journalists' attention centered on matters relating to the Agrarian Party's attitude to the Chernomyrdin cabinet and the election campaign. According to Mr. Nazarchuk, the Russian agro-industrial sector will be unable to survive in conditions of an austere financial policy and an absence of centralized Central Bank loans. Presently, the agriculture minister acknowledged, he is negotiating with a number of commercial banks a R1-trillion loan at the Central Bank's interest rate. At the All-Russia Farmers' Meeting, which was held in April, the agrarians voiced a number of demands to the government and tasked the agrarian faction at the State Duma with raising the question of no-confidence in the government should it fail to comply with them. Mr. Nazarchuk said in that regard that although "this procedure itself is not conducive to consolidation," unlike the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, the Agrarian Party will not back away—and if the farmers insist, the question will be included in the agenda.

The minister also refuted a statement by the prime minister that all cabinet members are ready to join the electoral bloc he is presently setting up. The Agrarian Party, in his view, should contest the elections with its own list of candidates. Nonetheless, the party's electoral platform will be discussed 5 May at a joint meeting of the Agrarian Party board and the Presidium of the Agricultural Trade Unions Central Committee. The elaboration of a definitive stance, Mr. Nazarchuk said, will depend on the government's agricultural policy, otherwise "farmers will not understand us."

Effort To Start Two-Party System 'Timely and Noble'

MM2704134195 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 27 Apr 95 p 1

[Article by Feliks Babitskiy under the "Opinion" rubric: "Centrist Blocs Will Help To Squeeze Extremists out of Big Politics"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Simultaneous statements by the president and the premier to the effect that two centrist blocs will be formed in the very near future have caused a sensation. Viktor Chernomyrdin himself intends to head one of these blocs while, according to the president, State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin intends to head the other. True, the latter has so far only welcomed the blocs' creation in principle, without publicizing his own role in this. But we have learned from well-informed sources in the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia that the future members of the left-centrist association have already reached a preliminary accord with him.

Incidentally, the list of these very members is also of interest. The "Rybkin" bloc could be joined by the Democratic Party of Russia (Glazyev), the Social Democratic Party of Russia (Golov), and the Socialist Party of the Working People (Vartazarova), but also, according to other data, by the Party of Social Democracy (Yakovlev) and the Russian Social Democratic People's Party (Lipitskiy). Analysts also slate the "Women of Russia" movement (Fedulova), the "Realists" movement (Petrov), moderate communists and agrarians, and the Federation of Commodity Producers (Skokov) for it. As for the "Chernomyrdin" bloc, it could embrace the "Stability" and "New Regional Policy" parliamentary factions with the corresponding "Stable Russia" and "Regions of Russia" movements, the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs with the twin parties created on its basis—the All-Russia Renewal Union (Vladislavlev) and the OPP [expansion unknown] (Shcherbakov]—the Party of the Majority (Grechnev), which is allied with Volskiy and Luzhkov, the Republican Party of the Russian Federation (Lysenko), the moderate section of the "Business and Politics" roundtable (those entrepreneurs who do not support Yavlinskiy), and, finally, on certain conditions, Russia's Democratic Choice (Gaydar).

The purpose of creating the two blocs is to win from the radically inclined parties the votes of the majority of voters, who are tired, so they believe, of upheavals. The fact that the head of state himself was the first to report the news of the blocs' creation to the press points to the level at which this political decision was adopted.

Well, the idea is good in itself and had matured within society long ago. But it would also be dishonest not to warn what difficulties lie in wait for it on the way to being realized. Let us start with the fact that the members of the two blocs should not be united on the basis of their formally declared values. Meanwhile, we should

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expect not a union between just such political players but, rather, a war for survival. In other words, it is hardly possible to "unite in friendship" Vartazarova, Lipitskiy, and Yakovlev, because they are fighting over the same electorate. True, it is possible to retort that one by one they will only hinder each other, whereas by squashing up they can not only surmount the 5- percent barrier but also take a sizable proportion of the Duma seats. Practice shows, however, that the primary and regional organizations of Russian parties, when such blocs are unsympathetic to them, simply ignore the decisions of the leaders in the capital and knock together their own blocs in the provinces. But even if, being aware of the need to pool efforts, the leaders do unite, their union will resemble Siamese twins—many personalities but one set of insides. When these unfortunates eventually die, it is certainly not of brotherly love.

Nevertheless, the very idea of building a two-party system and squeezing "extremists" out of big politics is very timely and noble. But, as the old song goes, when moving toward your goal in any matter, you must see all the obstacles at once.

Groups Agree To Work on Common Election Platform

LD2504113395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1016 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 25 (Interfax)—An agreement to start working out a common election platform was reached Monday evening between Chairman of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions Mikhail Shmakov, Co-Chairman of the Social Democratic Union Vasiliy Lipitskiy, Deputy Chairman of the Russian United Industrial Party Anatoliy Dolgolaptev, Chairman of the Union of Realists Yuriy Petrov (former leader of the presidential administration and head of the Russian Investment Corporation), and the leader of the Socialist Workers' Party and head of the State Duma's Analytical Center Ludmila Vartazarova.

Interfax learned from a participant in the conference who preferred to remain anonymous, "State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin showed interest in the efforts to form the bloc."

A week ago, at a meeting with youth, Rybkin said that two large blocs will be formed before the coming parliamentary and presidential elections by the new social democrats and by the liberals.

Ryabov: Elections Will Be Held on Time

MK2704102095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 27 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Petr Zhuravlev under the "Assurance" rubric: "Nikolay Ryabov: 'Elections Will Be Held on Time.' Central Electoral Commission Head Does Not Think President Would Jeopardize Democracy in Russia"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Central Electoral Commission head Nikolay Ryabov said yesterday that parliamentary elections will "be held on schedule without fail." "Currently one must be a reckless adventurist or have a deep hatred for one's people and state to talk about delaying elections," he said, emphasizing that the Constitution, "the general line of society's development, and an evident stabilization in the life of the country" provide guarantees that the elections will be held on time. Viktor Chernomyrdin's statement on setting up an electoral bloc, Mr. Ryabov believes, is yet more proof of this assertion.

Thanks to Vladimir Shumeyko, the CEC head said, the Federation Council appears to have already been deprived of an opportunity to consider the draft law on the election of lower chamber deputies, which was passed by the State Duma yet again 21 April: the next Senate meeting is scheduled for 4 May, but it is clear that for understandable reasons (holidays) it will be impossible to reach a quorum, the constitutional deadline by which the Federation Council must consider laws (two weeks since they are passed by the State Duma) will be over, and the election law will be automatically sent to the president.

At the time of a Chechen crisis and facing many other problems, Nikolay Ryabov noted, if Boris Yeltsin resorts to his right of veto, he "would take over responsibility for the fate of democracy in Russia—in the negative sense." The CEC chief is certain, however, that the president will not do that. It should be recalled that according to earlier reports Mr. Yeltsin is opposed to the 225:225 ratio of "single-seat" deputies and deputies elected on party tickets, which is provided for in the Duma draft law. But Mr. Ryabov made it clear that an absence of election legislation will not provide a pretext for postponing the election date. [passage omitted]

Move for Six-Month Election Delay Gaining Ground

MK2504104095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 25 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Sergey Parkhomenko: "Delayniks Gaining Upper Hand"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Confidential but trustworthy reports coming from the Kremlin indicate that things in Russia are indeed heading toward a postponement of federal parliamentary elections. The other day your SEGODNYA correspondent had a chance to see for himself that a similar assurance has gradually come to grip Moscow's diplomatic community, which traditionally has its own network of informants, a rather peculiar but fairly reliable one at that.

Evidently, the issue is still not a cancellation of State Duma elections for an unspecified period, but their deferral to a more or less clearly specified later date. To all appearances, for six months. Therefore, the idea is to

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hold parallel election campaigns in spring 1996 and—in mid- or late-July—concurrent elections for both the Federal Assembly lower chamber and for president.

All this is beginning to look like a democratic end of the world, particularly given that the terms of the Moscow and St. Petersburg mayors will expire by the same time; what is more, it also appears quite realistic that elections for administration heads (mayors, governors, you name it) and parliaments (dumas, majlises, khurals, legislatures, whatever they're called) may be held within the same dates in a whole slew of Russian territories.

The likelihood of deferring or canceling presidential elections is a subject for a separate analysis. But at this stage, judging from talk in Kremlin lobbies (particularly in near-Kremlin parks, where bureaucrats from the presidential administration have recently taken up talking to journalists), one may firmly conclude that they still see a forecast with presidential elections held within constitutional dates as the main working scenario. It should be noted parenthetically that fully defeatist sentiments and forebodings in that regard are visibly prevalent in the presidential administration. Something for which the author of these lines cannot give a sensible account, being sincerely confident of the fact that Boris Yeltsin, despite everything, still has—objectively speaking—fairly good chances of successfully renewing his presidential term for another five years by legal, that is, electoral, means. Otherwise, he would be devoured by his own cronies.

Returning to the subject of parliamentary elections, let us bear in mind two diametrically opposed concepts that have up to now been bitterly divided administration officials whose views can at least in some measure affect a definitive decision on the dates of the voting.

According to the first concept, the upcoming parliamentary elections should be seen as a public opinion poll of sorts—an extremely costly poll, but one that is as representative as possible and, hence, reliable—preceding a presidential race. Proponents of this viewpoint have been arguing that a six-month pause between the two votes would be fully sufficient for the ruling team to prepare for the "main" (and singularly important) expression of the popular will. Namely, it could coolly assess Boris Yeltsin's chances for reelection; select the most advantageous "load-bearing" candidacy for upcoming elections in case the assessment turns out to be negative; draw up a long-term election campaign strategy for its candidate in any event; and hold a series of local political and economic actions designed seriously to discredit a left majority in the parliament's new lineup.

There are no differences of assessment with regard to the Duma's would-be majority. Everyone is absolutely certain here that a voting majority in the new deputy corps will be represented by the communists and the agrarians (which appears to be correct) together with Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] members, of whom a whole horde is expected to enter the Sixth Duma (this is nonsense, inevitable because "generals always prepare for past wars"). Opponents of an "experimental approach" are undeterred by this prospect, however: No serious harm will come from the Duma, they think, however obnoxious its lineup might be, so limited its parliamentary prerogatives currently are. And, after all, when it becomes really unbearable, it would not be very difficult to dissolve the Duma right after the presidential elections: You nominate a Lev Ponomarev for prime minister three times in a row, receive three rejections—and voila.

The opponents—let us call them a party of "delayniks"—draw on the same forecast as their main argument in a dispute with the "experimenters." In their view, six months of political coexistence with a communist-Zhirinovskiite Duma would be simply unendurable. It is not yet clear who would succeed more in discrediting each other during these six months. A long series of parliamentary investigations on all conceivable matters would kick off, accompanied by demands that deputies be given access to extremely sensitive (particularly, financial) documents. Amendments to electoral legislation would come next. Wages of budget-financed industries and the minimum pension would be driven upward. The president would have to fire back with endless "vetoes" or once again to incur too great expenditures to court the Federation Council.

Any reasonable electoral strategy in these circumstances—the "delayniks" continue, choking with emotion—would be out of the question. What is more, sooner or later Boris Yeltsin could lose his temper, cancel presidential elections as such outright at one stroke, and then go to Sochi for an unprecedentedly long period. And although the Chechen story has shown that even a very big scandal can be weathered and that no Council of Europe resolutions break any bones—this time one may well trigger a really serious international outcry.

So, to all appearances, the "delayniks" are gradually gaining the upper hand over their opponents. They even seem to have completely overpowered them.

Let us wait for yet another presidential trip—somewhere to the Urals, for example. Such tours traditionally tend to produce a rich harvest of sensational statements. Nothing helps the president see the situation so clearly and express himself so definitely as grateful audiences of ordinary working people. By the time the president departs to meet the people, his advisers are usually rushing to present their helpful considerations on urgent matters of the day to their boss. While polishing yet another analytical memo to their august patron, they argue hotly, grow angry, and sometimes even fall apart.

It is not that they are completely disinterested in what views you and I may hold. Clearly, they are of interest to them in themselves, but when so crucial a matter comes under consideration, they are disregarded as amateurish. It is as if they were professionals in this political business and we were amateurs.

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Meanwhile, it's our turn. It is we who are going to elect them, isn't it?

Ryabov Interviewed on Election Preparations

MM2504135595 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 25 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Lyubov Tsukanova on interview with Central Electoral Commission Chairman Nikolay Ryabov; date, place of interview not given: "If Central Electoral Commission Gets Started, Everybody Wins"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Everything now being done by political parties and public organizations pending the parliamentary elections can be described as an election campaign only in the most general way. Central Electoral Commission Chairman Nikolay Ryabov stressed in a conversation with ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI's correspondent that the official start of the election marathon will be signaled by the appropriate Russian Federation president's edict. Everything done before that is unofficial. Apart from the Central Electoral Commission's actions—right now it is making strictly official preparations for the elections, and it is a case of the earlier the preparations begin the greater the chances that the election campaign will pass off without complications.

What is the most important thing to ensure an uninterrupted technological process of preparing for the elections? The Central Electoral Commission chairman cites the legislative base above all. It is a most alarming aspect because as of today only one law is ready—on guarantees of citizens' electoral rights. The rest are still going around parliamentary corridors. Without laws it is difficult for us to begin large-scale work on a legal knowledge program, Ryabov says, above all with the organizers of the election process.

The Central Electoral Commission must urgently carry out the state registration of voters. The Central Electoral Commission chairman said that this is the first time that this is being done in the country and that there is a massive amount of work, but as a result both the Federation as a whole and every component is obtaining a reliable database. This is absolutely necessary for the functioning of state structures, for the activity of public associations, and, of course, for electoral commissions. Unfortunately, Ryabov said, the executive branch has no documents regulating this work, therefore the Central Electoral Commission, relying on the law, has had to issue a temporary statute according to which the work will be carried out. The deadline is very tight, all work must be completed no later than 10 June. The technical wherewithal to do this does exist: Fairly good computer facilities have already been set up in Federation components and resources for this work have also already been allocated by the Central Electoral Commission. Unlike in previous years, information from voters will be systematic rather than fragmented, and it will be rechecked and revised twice a year. The system will also make it possible to mark out the borders of districts with a great degree of reliability—this is also a very important stage in the preparation of the election campaign.

Installing the "Elections" automated system is a very important task. We are now already entering, Ryabov said, the practical stage, in which it is necessary to distribute equipment, instruct cadres, and introduce the relevant programs in thousands of the country's cities and rayons. To do this it is necessary to allocate special premises and train cadres, who could in the near future start getting to grips with the equipment and thoroughly preparing for the elections.

Open Letter to Yeltsin on Privatization

954E0883A Moscow DELOVOY MIR in Russian 12 Apr 95 pp 1, 2

[Open letter to B.N. Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation]

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Boris Nikolayevich!

Concerning the meeting of the Government of the Russian Federation of 30 March 1995 devoted to the tasks for implementation of stage two of privatization in 1995, we consider it necessary to call your attention to certain problems of this stage of privatization that are causing serious concern.

The draft documents examined at the meeting of the Government of the Russian Federation contemplate prior to the end of 1995 the early sale of a considerable quantity of the blocks of shares consolidated in state ownership of privatized enterprises, including structure-forming enterprises of the base branches of industry. It is planned to secure the receipt for the federal treasury here of monetary resources of the order of 9.5 trillion rubles. It is contemplated selling the shares in large blocks and in the shortest possible time. Your message to the Federal Assembly cites as a principal task of privatization policy in 1995 the "maximum furtherance of the upturn in investment activity with the simultaneous palpable replenishment of budgets of all levels... by means of a transition from the distributive to the investment phase of privatization."

But the strategy of privatization proposed by the State Property Committee of Russia is not geared to the adequate accomplishment of this task. The absence of substantiation and calculations in the documents that have been presented compels doubt as to the feasibility of the receipt of the planned federal budget revenue from the sale of state property. Nor are the said documents oriented toward the creation of the conditions for an influx of investments into the privatized enterprises.

The accelerated sale of the shares of the enterprises affords no guarantee that the federal budget will receive the planned revenue. The proposed privatization strategy will lead to a reduction in the sale price of the blocks of shares of enterprises of the priority branches of the Russian economy. State property will sold here at

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prices considerably lower than those that would be established were a strategy of a metered sale of shares oriented toward long-term investors and favorable sale terms adopted.

A sizable nonstate sector of the economy has been created in Russia at the present time. Under these conditions the second—monetary—stage of privatization should be of a more balanced nature.

The possible consequences of the sale of blocks of shares reserved to the state of enterprises in key branches of the national economy such as the oil and gas and military-industrial complexes, power engineering, and ferrous and nonferrous metallurgy should be studied in detail to prevent damage to the strategic interests of Russia and its national security.

It is essential to determine in legislation in which branches of the economy, in what volume, and within what timeframe public ownership should be preserved.

Under the conditions of the formation of a market system of management the consolidation of a proportion of state property in the authorized capital of the privatized enterprises would make it possible to ensure state regulation in the base branches of industry. The latter may be achieved only if there is the possibility of state influence on the structure-forming enterprises of the base branches of the economic complex via control of the blocks of shares reserved to public ownership. The state should be an equal subject of market relations.

The success of the reform process in Russia and its future as a great power will largely depend on the policy of privatization that is adopted. This applies first and foremost to the legislation governing privatization. An official privatization program should be confirmed in legislation as soon as possible. The State Duma is prepared to reexamine the draft federal law "On the Official Program of Privatization of State and Municipal Enterprises in the Russian Federation After 1 July 1994."

We consider it necessary also to call your attention to the need for the formalization in legislation of the procedure of the sale of the shares previously consolidated in federal ownership and of the harmonization of the decisions on the release and sale of blocks of shares.

In connection with the foregoing we request that you consider in conjunction with the Government and the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation the strategy of the second stage of privatization and, specifically, the expediency of the early release from federal ownership and the sale before the end of 1995 of large blocks of shares of base enterprises of the Russian economy.

[Signed] V.S. Medvedev, New Regional Policy group of deputies
M.L. Lapshin, Agrarian Party of Russia faction
S.Yu. Glazyev, Democratic Party of Russia faction
Ye.F. Lakhova, Women of Russia political movement faction
G.A. Zyuganov, Communist Party of the Russian Federation faction
V.V. Zhirinovskiy, Liberal Democratic Party of Russia faction

Savitskiy on Leadership, Moral Issues

954F2151A Moscow SOBESEDNIK in Russian No. 15, Apr 95 p 3

[Interview with Vitaliy Savitskiy by Larisa Usova; place and date not given: "The Devil Does Not Sleep!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vitaliy Savitskiy, leader of the Christian Democratic Union—Christians of Russia Party and deputy of the State Duma, is convinced that the struggle for our souls between God and the devil does not cease for one second. And it is not always God who is victorious.... To the atheist, this material will appear at least strange. But is it not strange that in our primordially Christian country we have ceased to evaluate people from the viewpoint of Christian morals? What criteria have we not thought up, and this primordial Russian criterion we have forgotten? Although history has shown us, it would seem—very vividly, alas—that nothing good comes from a disregard for Christian roots.

[Usova] Vitaliy Viktorovich, we reiterate the Christian commandments quite often, everybody knows them, but, obviously, to live in sacred observance of them is well-nigh impossible. Do you, for example, manage to "love the deputies as yourself"?

[Savitskiy] I pray for them. All of them. Because there are no lost souls for God, and even the most inveterate wretch may return to God. The most important thing from which the deputies' souls need to be saved are the numerous temptations. And prayers alone do not get the job done here—specific actions are needed. I am constantly raising, say, the question of deputies being stripped of their immunity. After all, according to the Constitution, all are equal before the law, but in reality, all except the deputies. In no other country is this the case. It was because we have this infamous deputy immunity that Deputy Skorochkin died. I am not in sympathy with the kind of activity in which he engaged, and it is incomprehensible to me, as both a Christian and a citizen, how he could support a family in Britain and have his own personal security. But I grieve for him and I realize that had the Duma permitted investigatory actions in respect to Skorochkin, he would now be alive. Whether he would have fled to England or would be doing time in Butyrka is immaterial; he would be alive!

[Usova] Your prayers, obviously, do not always reach God, because, alas, not all deputies can resist temptation.

[Savitskiy] Alas.... In this sense the most striking example is what happened with Bauer, the democrat cast by the will of fate into the high office of chairman of the Committee for Organization of the Work of the Duma. This person found himself in the office of distributor of

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benefits and changed before our eyes. He demonstratively allocated himself an apartment in the area of Smolenskaya Square and furnished it with antiques and changed his suits just about every day. Result: He was removed from office. Whether a deputy has changed in his heart or not may, generally, be judged by the clothes he wears. If a person shows up all the while in stylish coats and smokes expensive cigars, he is, consequently, most likely unscrupulous. Our deputy's wages, despite the fact that the majority of us live in hotels and dine in expensive restaurants, cannot extend to all this.

[Usova] For what do deputies take bribes, I wonder?

[Savitskiy] For lobbying, primarily. From foolish businessmen, who very often do not understand what a deputy can actually do, and what, he cannot. Besides, deputy immunity extends to a deputy's property also, and for this reason any firm may be registered to him and money laundered through it, and if it goes bust, there are no consequences for the deputy for this. Approximately one-third of the deputies have such firms today.

[Usova] Has there been a change, in your view, in a person who literally shot up "from rags to riches"? I refer to Ivan Petrovich Rybkin, who from being a little-known politician has become a leader of the country.

[Savitskiy] He has, generally, been well known for a long time. He was long known for his astonishing flexibility as a beneficiary of well-placed telephone calls and as an invertebrate with quite magnificent bodily shapes. He was, after all, chairman of the Communists of Russia faction in the former Supreme Soviet, and when the Communist Party was banned, he deserted to the agrarians, and he subsequently attempted to go back. His election to the office of chairman of the Duma was none too attractive either. He was two votes short, and one vote was, in addition, questionable. It was suggested that Rybkin hold a runoff, and he would in this case, I am sure, have won. But he was afraid to take the risk, and he succumbed to temptation, which, I am sure, will now cost him dear. His first drive through the Spasskiye Gate into the Kremlin in a black limousine made a strong impression on him, I believe. He ceased to uphold the interests of both the communists and the agrarians, the main thing for him being to dig himself in, in his advantageous position, understanding full well that in two years' time he would have the support neither of the communists nor of the agrarians. He has become a spineless individual with an enormous staff of aides and advisers from the former CPSU. I am afraid that in today's situation, Rybkin will insist on a postponement of the elections.

[Usova] Vladimir Volfovich Zhirinovskiy talks a great deal in his speeches about the Russian idea, about Russia. Could you evaluate his activity from the viewpoint of Christian morals?

[Savitskiy] I have known Zhirinovskiy since 1988. He was at that time a normal, modest person, and we would drink tea together in the kitchen from mayonnaise jars. He made friends with many civil rights activists at that time, dressed modestly, and even his outward appearance was different. Now everything has changed, but I pray for him all the same, because I imagine that on Judgment Day this person will catch it more than anyone else. Zhirinovskiy is a person whom Satan is leading. This is shown, for example, in the fact that he abjured his father. But the main thing is that, as a politician, he is perfectly consciously leading people nowhere, and he needs people merely as a means to achieve his future goals. But this from the Christian viewpoint is the most fearful punishment, for it is said in Holy Scripture that "the punishment is 77 times greater for one who tempts others into evil." Zhirinovskiy is inciting hatred and affording an opportunity for all that is most ugly in the human soul to come to the surface. When journalists print details shaming Zhirinovskiy, they forget that there will always be people—three out of every 10, approximately—who will, following such publications, like Zhirinovskiy all the more. Because they think: Were I overseas, I also would as my first order of business head for a bordello; I also hate blacks because they have more money than me, and I also hate Jews, since I can find no other reasons for my calamitous situation. Zhirinovskiy is one of numerous politicians in Russia who has understood that it is useless to work for all the voters all at once. And his electorate is composed of people who are beyond the standards of Christian morals and ethics. He has gambled on villains and rogues.

[Usova] But he was the winner at the 12 December elections. Are the majority of people in our country scoundrels and villains?

[Savitskiy] I shall now tell you a story. My childhood was spent in Estonia, but my family is Russian, I read Russian books, and I once read "Timur and His Team." I had an excellent memory, and outside I would tell the boys the story of the book of the writer Gaydar, of whom few of them had heard. Everyone was so entranced by my story-telling that they would skip dinner, even. I would end by suggesting that we organize Timur's team here in the yard. I was expecting with horror that everyone would now want to be Timur and that I, quite a slender fellow, would not get this splendid role. But here our main yard kingpin stepped forward and declared: "I will be Mishka Kvakin." "No, I'm Kvakin, no, I am!" the other boys began to shout. A fight started. Then our elder brothers joined in, then, our fathers, then it went wall to wall, house to house. We were pulled apart by the police.... And it was then that I understood for the first time that the temptation of the devil is very strong. It should not be forgotten that a struggle of the forces of darkness and light for each human soul is under way. And if this is forgotten, it is very easy to become villains. I believe that at the time of the elections, people stupefied by the devil became scoundrels, and I am convinced that many subsequently saw the light and have bitterly regretted that they succumbed to the devil's temptation and seduction. And the blessed Augustine, who said:

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"Government without ethics is a gang of scoundrels," was right. The same may be said about parliament also. Unless we work on the souls of the members of parliament, other, dark forces will begin to work on them.

[Usova] It was for this reason, probably, that you for the first time in the history of all the Dumas of Russia organized the Hour of Prayer?

[Savitskiy] Yes, of course. We pray not only for a cleansing of our souls. We pray first and foremost for our parliamentary colleagues. It is not only we, I am sure, who pray for the salvation of the souls of the members of parliament, for the salvation of Russia. It is for this reason, perhaps, that Red Square has not yet become Minutka Square in Groznyy and that the tremendous changes that are taking place in the country are occurring with very little bloodshed. God hears us.

[Usova] When Gaydar began to pursue his reforms, were the forces of light victorious over the forces of darkness in his soul at that time?

[Savitskiy] For me Gaydar is undoubtedly an emissary of the forces of light, primarily because he is an honest man. He did not promise blessings in a month, whereas many deputies were saying that paradise in Russia would come tomorrow—we merely need to release prices. But the forces of darkness crowded around Gaydar.

[Usova] Who specifically?

[Savitskiy] First, all of us. We wanted miracles, but did we deserve them? We had, after all, not even repented for having tolerated the communist regime for 70 years. And we can, in addition, name specific persons. Gennadiy Burbulis, for example. How can a politician be taken seriously if he proposes the concept of a liberal-conservative party; throughout the world the dividing line runs between liberals and conservatives. And Andrey Makarov? Even his sympathizers were incensed when the underlying motives of his false charges against Rutskoy were revealed. When it was demanded of Makarov, however, that he relinquish his mandate, he simply switched to another faction. It seems to me that the duality of Andrey Kozyrev has become apparent as of late. After all, Kozyrev was in contact daily with the Kovalev group in Chechnya and had all the detailed information and, nonetheless, continued to campaign for the war, although he saw full well that human rights were being violated in Chechnya. For this also, when some people use their outward appearance, mild manners, and the image of a cultured individual not to augment the dignity of Russia in the world arena, but to defend crimes against humanity and thereby crimes against God, is Satanism.

[Usova] You have, it seems to me, adduced in conversation quite a clear-cut criterion: the struggle for man's soul of the forces of darkness and light. Which forces are winning the victory in the soul of our president?

[Savitskiy] It is written in Scripture that any authority comes from God and that you should pray for your rulers. Pray, because even the most appalling criminals have a God-given soul and there is in them a divine spark, which we at times extinguish ourselves.

[Usova] These words may be applied to Yeltsin directly?

[Savitskiy] Yes, directly. From my viewpoint, Yeltsin did not consciously repent, and I discerned in his "Confessions on a Set Theme" neither sincerity nor repentance. This was nothing more than an attempt to excuse himself for actions that I, as a Christian, cannot excuse. And one of them was the blowing up of the Ipatyev Home, where the royal family was executed. Had Yeltsin so wished, he could have ordered the KGB to leave the house alone, and then the Ipatyev Home would have been spared, as formerly the Hermitage, the Rostral Columns, or the Exchange building in St. Petersburg, which also had been ordered destroyed "from above," were spared. I remember well Yeltsin's first months in power in Moscow and do not consider his methods of bringing order to bear in the CPSU Christian. I was always opposed to the CPSU; but I cannot accept methods where to escape the anger of their superiors—Yeltsin—employees were jumping out of the window. Today Yeltsin has an irresponsible attitude toward his political statements and is issuing promises right and left and is not responsible for them. Yeltsin is not struggling actively against the fledgling fascism in Russia. But we should not leave off praying for Boris Nikolayevich: and we should try to ensure that he can exercise his functions in the high office for the good of Russia.

[Usova] What do you think, when Yeltsin goes to church, is he motivated by a sincere belief in God?

[Savitskiy] I doubt that Yeltsin, like others of our leaders, for that matter, sincerely believes in God. The Savior said in the Sermon on the Mount: When you pray, do so not like the Pharisees, in public, lock yourself in a dark room so that no one can see you. Prayer demands concentration. What kind of concentration can there be when you are blinded by floodlights?

[Usova] In the former Supreme Soviet, Sakharov was the Christian ideal. Are there such people in the Duma?

[Savitskiy] I would like to remind you that Sakharov did not always appear such an undoubted authority. He was abused by many people—the Afghan vets, for example, or Yuriy Boldyrev, who now lays claim to the role of "mind, honor, and conscience" of our era. I would mention Sergey Kovalev, of course, although, as you know, there is no unequivocal opinion of his activity either in the Duma or in society. I am greatly impressed by the position of Ella Pamfilova, who, in whatever high office she has been, has always remembered that she is a human being. General Nikolay Stolyarov seems to me to be a true Christian. I recall how, having become chief of the KGB following the August putsch, he declared that there would be no change in Russia until there was repentance.

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[Usova] You evaluate the deputies and many people very severely. What about the principle "Judge not, lest ye yourselves be judged"?

[Savitskiy] It is said in the Revelation of John the Divine: Whom I love, I condemn! If you see a failing and point to it, does this mean you are judging? I do not condemn the people about whom we have spoken today, it is simply that I am attempting to struggle for their immortal souls. If we do not speak about sins openly, we are hereby committing a spiritual crime.

* * *

Vitaliy Viktorovich Savitskiy is deputy chairman of the Committee for Public Associations and Religious Organizations and leader of the Christian Democratic Union—Christians of Russia Party. He was born in Tallinn on 18 July 1955. He does not know what his sign of the Zodiac is, but he wears a cross. He was a member neither of the Pioneers nor the Communist Youth League nor the CPSU. He was sent from high school to a correctional vocational-technical school for burning the Soviet flag. He worked at a plant, where he organized a clandestine group for the study of Christian literature. He served in the Army, in a construction battalion. He is a graduate of the A.A. Zhdanov Leningrad University. He was a research associate in Chernobyl. In 1988 he organized the Man group, which subsequently became the first Mercy society. In 1992 he was cochairman of the Democratic Russia movement in St. Petersburg. He did not recognize the legality of the Soviet state and for this reason did not take part in the elections either in 1989 or in 1990. In 1992 he ran as a member of the Christian Democratic Union in a head-to-head constituency and won. He is married with a 14-year-old daughter and a seven-year-old son.

Provisions of Law on Protecting Judges, Lawmen

MM2804095895 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Apr 95 First Edition p 1

[Article by Yevgeniy Skukin: "Judges Request Protection. Federal Law 'On State Protection for Judges and Officials of Law Enforcement and Control Organs' Passed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Neither deputies nor the head of state doubted the need to protect judges and employees of the law enforcement and control organs from strong pressure and even revenge from the criminal world. The delay in passing the law was caused by the scarcity of the budget revenues. In the government's view, the law was too expensive.

The long-awaited "breakthrough" came after the March meeting between the president and the State Duma chairman at which the leaders agreed on the immediate need to institute state protection for the people who dispense justice. Everything was decided in the Security Council. The president supported the speaker's viewpoint that the law could be phased in: Some articles 10 days after publication in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, the main bulk on 1 January 1996, and the part of Article 10 concerning the rehousing of a protected person on 1 January 1997. The government was obliged to make provision in the federal budget for the considerable expenditure associated with the law's implementation.

The range of security measures, which will be applied within the law's framework when there is a threat of offenses against the lives, health, or property of law enforcement officers, includes personal and residential protection, the issuing of firearms and special individual security equipment, and the notification of danger. But the series of measures is so specific that it involuntarily forces us to think about how dangerous and unpredictable is the fate of the people who administer justice. The law makes provision for, in particular, the temporary accommodation of protected judges in a safe place, the changing of their place of work and their rehousing elsewhere, and the changing of documents and even appearance.

In short, this law is fully up to world standards. It also envisages decent social protection measures for the victims of criminal offenses. Henceforth judges' lives and health are subject to compulsory state insurance in a sum equal to 180 times the average monthly wage (average monthly pay). In the event of a victim's death their relatives will receive this sum.

An insurance payout equal to 36 times the average monthly wage is due to maimed judges whose bodily injuries preclude any further possibility of their engaging in professional activity, the multiplier being 12 in the case of bodily injuries not entailing permanent loss of fitness to work. Those who have lost the opportunity to engage in professional activity will also receive monthly compensation in the form of the difference between their average monthly wage (pay) and the pension awarded to them because of this, not counting the sum of state insurance payments received. In exactly the same way family members of those killed who are dependent on them will receive monthly compensation in the form of the difference between the proportion of the deceased's wage (pay) they are due to receive and the pension awarded to them in the event of the loss of the breadwinner, not counting the sum of state insurance payments received. In addition, loss incurred by the destruction of or damage to property belonging to employees of courts and law enforcement institutions is subject to full reimbursement.

Decree on Support for Science, Technology

MM2704144095 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Apr 95 First Edition pp 3,5

[Decree No. 3360 of the Russian Federation Government "On State Support for the Development of Science and Scientific and Technical Developments," signed by

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V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government, and dated 17 April 1995, carried under the general heading "Urgent Assistance for Science"]

[FBIS Translated Text] With a view to overcoming the state of crisis in the scientific and technical sphere and intensifying the state's influence on shaping the innovative potential of the economic transformations, and with a view to ensuring state support for the development of Russian science and technology, the Russian Federation Government decrees that:

1. Urgent measures shall be implemented to improve the financial state of scientific organizations:

a) The Russian Federation Ministry of Finance shall:

allocate by 1 May 1995 targeted funds, including treasury bonds, for the payment of the federal budget arrears for 1994 to Russian Federation state scientific centers and scientific organizations funded by the federal budget in respect of state investment, payment for energy sources, leasing of buildings and premises, and municipal services. The amount of the aforesaid targeted funds shall be determined in conjunction with the Russian Federation Ministry of Science and Technical Policy and interested ministries and departments following an examination of reports on the implementation of spending estimates in 1994;

examine with the participation of the Russian Federation Ministry of Science and Technical Policy, the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences, the Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences, and other sectoral academies of sciences and, during the second quarter of 1995, resolve in accordance with prescribed procedure questions pertaining to:

the allocation of hard currency for the patenting and promotion of Russian technological developments abroad;

the allocation of hard currency for the payment of arrears and the payment of the 1995 dues to international scientific organizations and for the procurement of scientific and printing equipment, office equipment, materials and reagents, and foreign scientific journals, backup for maritime expeditions, and repairs to research vessels;

b) The Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy, in conjunction with the Russian Federation Ministry of Science and Technical Policy, the Russian Academy of Sciences, sectoral academies of sciences, and interested federal executive organs, shall review the list of installations being built with centralized capital investment for the Russian Federation's state scientific centers and for establishments of the Russian Academy of Sciences and its regional branches, and, when the 1996 federal budget is being drawn up, shall submit to the Russian Federation Government in accordance with prescribed procedure proposals that investment resources be concentrated on the completion of installations which are still needed and which are scheduled for commissioning in 1996- 1997 and on the construction of social installations on a shared basis with funds provided by local budgets and citizens and enlisting federal budget funds;

c) The Russian Federation Ministry of Science and Technical Policy shall, when allocating budget appropriations in 1995 to ministries and departments—the state customers for the federal targeted programs adopted by the Russian Federation Government for funding—take into consideration the expenditure on research and development work included in the aforesaid programs within the bounds of the 1995 federal budget funds allocated to these ministries and departments for the implementation of scientific studies, which should be channeled by ministries and departments primarily into the implementation of the aforesaid work.

2. The appended plan of measures for 1995 for the provision of state support for the development of science and scientific and technical developments (not published) shall be ratified.

3. With a view to preventing the further destruction of the country's scientific and technical potential and creating the conditions for the full-fledged development of fundamental studies and top-priority avenues of science and technology, the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance, the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy, and the Russian Federation Ministry of Science and Technical Policy shall review in the 1996 draft federal budget appropriations for the funding of civilian research and development work amounting to at least 3 percent of annual budget expenditure with this proportion being increased in subsequent years.

4. It shall be prescribed that the top-priority avenues for the development of science and technology, as well as the list of critical federal-level technologies, are ratified by the Government Commission for Scientific and Technical Policy.

5. With a view to ensuring the reorganization of the scientific and technical sphere during the first half of 1995, federal executive organs, the Russian Academy of Sciences, and sectoral academies of sciences shall:

analyze the network of scientific organizations working in the interests of the corresponding sectors, determine in accordance with prescribed procedure the optimum organizational-legal forms for scientific organizations under their jurisdiction and the main avenues of their activity, and submit the results of this work to the Russian Federation Ministry of Science and Technical Policy;

complete the work of drawing up the list of scientific and technical installations subject to reorganization in accordance with the procedure envisaged by Russian Federation Government decree No. 870 of 26 July 1994 "On the Privatization of Scientific and Technical Installations" (SOBRANIYE ZAKONODATELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII, 1994, No. 15, p 1783).

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The Russian Federation Ministry of Science and Technical Policy shall inform federal executive organs of the methods used to conduct the analysis of the network of scientific organizations, sum up the results during the third quarter of 1995, and take steps by the end of 1995 to draw up a state register of scientific organizations.

6. The Russian Federation Ministry of Science and Technical Policy, the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Russian Federation State Committee for Higher Education, the Russian Fundamental Studies Fund, and the Russian Humanitarian Science Fund shall, in conjunction with interested federal executive organs, prepare and submit to the Russian Federation Government in the second quarter of 1995 proposals regarding targeted support for the country's leading scientific schools.

7. Federal executive organs shall organize the work to implement this Russian Federation Government decree and carry out additional measures to support and develop scientific organizations under their jurisdiction. The results of this work shall be examined by collegiums and a report presented to the Russian Federation Government in the first quarter of 1996.

8. Russian Federation components' executive organs shall be advised, in conjunction with interested federal executive organs, public scientific organizations, and associations, to formulate and implement—with due consideration for local and sectoral features—measures to support the development of science and innovative activity in the regions and promote the implementation of the series of measures ratified by this decree.

[Signed] V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government
[Dated] 17 April 1995
No. 360

Grounds for 'Optimism' Seen in Decree on Science

MM2804085495 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Apr 95 First Edition p 5

[Unattributed account of remarks by Vsevolod Medvedev, corresponding member and deputy chief academic secretary of the Russian Academy of Sciences, carried under the "Commentary" rubric and the general heading: "Urgent Assistance for Science"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Recent efforts have yielded positive results, he said. It cannot now be claimed that Russian science is in a state of collapse. It has achievements to its name. These were cited at the Russian Academy of Sciences annual meeting recently. Our scientists have produced interesting results in a whole number of areas, although the alarming situation regarding the delay in transforming scientific ideas into actual deeds is undeniable.

Vsevolod Medvedev also reported the following interesting facts: The exodus of Russian scientists abroad is slowing down and, what's more, the number of those wishing to do postgraduate study has increased this year. Young people have begun to realize that brain rather than brawn is the chief route to achieving anything in life.

However, a lot has to be done to ensure more effective use is made of the country's scientific potential, in the chief academic secretary's opinion. One problem is that often the results achieved in the laboratories of institutes are not further exploited. Sometimes this happens for the mundane reason of lack of information.

According to Vsevolod Medvedev, the steps taken by the country's leadership give grounds for the scientific community to look to the future with optimism. The latest Russian Federation Government decree is further confirmation of this. The envisaged appropriation—as of next year—of 3 percent of federal budget expenditure will make the existence of scientific collectives more assured. Certain concessions are also being granted: Customs duties on instruments and equipment temporarily imported or exported for the purpose of scientific research are being removed, and charitable assistance given to Russian science by foreign foundations and organizations is exempted from tax. Measures are being taken to ensure that scientists' wages are no lower than the average wage in the national economy.

However, fears are being expressed in the scientific world: After all, various promises were made in the past, but they have not been met. For example, the normal sums of money were apparently allocated last year, but only 55 percent of the statutory amount was eventually obtained. We would not want any repetition of that.

Media Issues

New Agency Seen as Censorship Committee

MM2804092295 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Apr 95 First Edition pp 1-2

[Article by Vladimir Verin: "Censorship Committee Is Being Created...."]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the evening of 24 April on Russian television in the program "without retouching" presenter S. Torchinskiy made public a curious document—a Russian Federation presidential draft edict on the formation of a new department—a kind of ministry of propaganda. The journalist had an even sharper name for this administrative invention —"the department of propaganda under the CPSU Central Committee." This draft is indeed so unique that it is worth publishing in full. [There follows text of draft edict]

On the formation of the Russian Federation United Federal Agency for state information policy (Gosinform)

With a view to ensuring state support for the mass media, strengthening the legal protection of the mass media and the rights of workers in television, radio

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broadcasting, the press, and other mass media, and putting in order the registration and licensing of the mass media, in accordance with article 80 of the Russian Federation Constitution I decree:

1. That the Russian Federation United Federal Agency for State Information Policy (Gosinform) be created on the basis of the Russian Federation Committee for the Press and the Russian Federal Service for Television and Radio Broadcasting.

That the relevant changes be made to the structure of federal organs of executive power approved by the Russian Federation President's 10 January 1994 edict no. 66 bearing in mind that the Gosinform is a federal organ of executive power subordinate to the Russian Federation president on questions assigned to it by the Russian Federation Constitution.

2. That the Gosinform be assigned the implementation of state policy in the sphere of the mass media, the monitoring of the observation of legislation on the mass media, including questions of technical inspection, preventive work, and the halting of law violations in this sphere and the registration and licensing of the mass media.

3. That it be established that:

The service for television and radio broadcasting and the committee for the press join Gosinform as its main administrations;

each of the above structural subdivisions of Gosinform is headed by a director, who is ex officio first deputy general director of Gosinform.

4. That it be established that the leaders of regional (interregional) subdivisions of Gosinform are appointed to their posts by the general director of Gosinform.

5. That the Russian Federation state committee for the administration of state property be given within a week for the Gosinform the buildings at the following Moscow addresses: No. 12 Kachalov Street, no. 5 Strastnoy Boulevard, and no. 25 Pyatnitskaya Street with all the equipment, furniture, organizational equipment, and so forth there as of 1 January 1995 to accommodate the central apparatus and services of Gosinform.

6. That Sergey Petrovich Gryzunov be appointed Gosinform general director.

7. That the following be appointed Gosinform first deputy general directors:

Sergey Pavlovich Luknitskiy, director of the service for radio and television broadcasting;

Aleksey Borisovich Morgun, director of the Committee for the Press.

8. That the Gosinform general director submit within two weeks for approval a statute on the Russian Federation united federal agency for state information policy (Gosinform).

9. That the Russian Federation Government bring its decisions into line with this edict.

10. This edict enters into force from the moment it is signed. [text of edict ends]

And so having made public this document, S. Torchinskiy asked a program guest, Vsevolod Bogdanov, chairman of the Russian Journalists Union, to comment on it. And here there was instantly exposed the author of what V. Bogdanov called the latest "attempt to lay hands on the press"—S. Gryzunov, chairman of the Russian Committee for the Press.

It must be said that the draft for the new agitation and propaganda department delighted virtually none of the journalists present. Only a journalist from ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI, revealing some knowledge of the content of the document which had just been described, tried to argue that since Mr. Gryzunov is involved in the draft and is planning to be minister of propaganda, then everything will be fine. He said he could not imagine S. Gryzunov telephoning some chief editor and asking or demanding that he publish something or not print something. There followed a highly characteristic reply from V. Bogdanov:

"Of course, the sacred duty of the presidential newspaper is to support this new presidential department.... But Gryzunov will not only telephone, he is already telephoning today to almost all the chief editors and trying to guide them." (The chief editor of ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA is not among their number).

And so we have the latest attempt to create a large propaganda apparatus designed to ensure tough control over the mass media. It has come to our knowledge that S. Filatov, leader of the Russian Federation president's staff, has rendered great assistance to the project for the agitation and propaganda department named for S. Gryzunov. In an analytical note accompanying the text and signed by him he wrote: Analysis shows that the balance of information sources aimed at the mass audience is taking shape by no means in favor of the Russian president. Actually, apart from the Information Administration (the formula for whose activity on its first encounter with reality has fully shown its unsoundness) the president has nothing. As for ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI then under pressure from the State Duma committee for information policy and communications (M. N. Poltoranin) like many other publications it has been deprived of its state subsidy and naturally will be obliged to define a new formula for its survival."

It emerged that Messrs. Filatov and Gryzunov have little concern for the grave situation which has taken place in important sectors like television and radio broadcasting or Russia's publishing and printing complex. They are not alarmed by the fact that state television is faced with a choice—either reducing broadcasting for the summer months or stopping it completely in the fall of this year. They are not perturbed by the fact that the catastrophic

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situation with regard to the Russian printing industry could leave schoolchildren without textbooks by 1 September. As the analytical memorandum states, it is far more important that "there is no coordination of the activity of the state mass media and Russia's propaganda activity has declined drastically."

Yet again bureaucrats are trying to convince the country's leadership that they are the ones who can ensure the political prosperity of the country and people. And what they want is very trivial—unrestricted power over the mass media, a separate ministry, and a colossal staff.

But the most curious thing is that all this is being demanded by Mr. Gryzunov, who has already proved throughout the period of the imposition of constitutional order in Chechnya, his total inability not only to explain the position of the president and government and not only to defend it but even to organize even halfway reasonably information backup for the operations the state carries out.

Incidentally, S. Gryzunov left Chechnya at the most troubled time because he had "throat trouble." In general this is called desertion. In particular they wanted to dismiss S. Gryzunov for it. But later they obviously decided to promote him.

So Gryzunov's team, which calls itself democratic, is proposing to create nothing other than a censorship committee. After all, everything has already been created for implementing the Russian leadership's policy—state television and state newspapers, the information backup administration and the press service of the Russian president and government. Let everyone do their job, and after all some people are doing it!

S Gryzunov should also do his job as chairman of the Russian Committee for the Press: engage in organizing the publication of textbooks, books, and school workbooks and exercise books. But that is probably beyond him: The press is full of alarming articles on blunders in this important area....

So draft edicts are compiled in which the functions of chief ideological controller and chief ideological "hard-hitter" are assigned to Gryzunov. Well, some people never want to do humdrum work.... You can put the banner of democracy in one of their hands and the censor's stamp they long for in the other.

Government Information Directorate Formed

MM2804135095 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Apr 95 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Government Information Directorate"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A Government Information Directorate has appeared within the Russian Government apparatus.

The pressing need for this decision is obvious—it is sometimes hard even for ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, founded by the government itself, to clarify any details, never mind other journalists. That is why the new structure has been set up on the basis of the government's press service, whose activity, as a recent inspection showed, was not only ineffective but also did not entirely match its status as a government organ.

It is incidentally worthy of note that the leader of the new directorate has not as yet been appointed. This convinces us that it is not being tailored to a specific person as was previously the case but is being set up to perform the task of providing objective, full mass media coverage of the Cabinet of Ministers' activity.

Military, Nuclear & Space Issues

Lebed Suggested as Army Inspector-General

MM2804133295 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 28 Apr 95 p 2

[Article by Vladimir Guliyev: "So Far the Swan Song Has Not Become a Hawkish Squawk"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The fates have decreed that Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed, commander of the 14th Army stationed in the Dniester Region, is increasingly being embroiled in the political maelstrom. He said that he intends to quit his post as commander of the 14th Russian Army owing to the upcoming reorganization of the command. Gen. Lebed stressed that the planned cuts in the 14th Army command cannot be carried out until all conditions have been created for the implementation of the Moldovan-Russian agreement on the Russian troop withdrawal.

"I regrettably learned of the decision to reform the army's staff from the press," the general said. "Hitherto none of my leadership has told me about this nor has anyone offered me any post."

Colonel Nikolay Malyshev, chief of the Russian Ground Forces Press Center, said during a conversation with your ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI correspondent that the Russian defense minister decided to reform the staff of the 14th Russian Army. He explained: "This decision is due to the fact that the overall numerical strength of the 14th Army is verging on that of a reduced-strength division owing to the consistent cuts in the army, whereas the numerical strength of the army's staff—these changes notwithstanding—has remained virtually unchanged at over 200 men."

There would be nothing terrible in this had Aleksandr Lebed decided from the very outset to make a career of politics, abandon military service, and get involved in the ups-and-downs of party politics and parliamentary elections.

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Nowadays people are increasingly frequently trying to disprove the well-known maxim of any civilized democratic state that the army is outside politics. But it has long been known that the armed forces as a special instrument of the state are created precisely in order to perform political functions, admittedly using special means—armed struggle. Needless to say the army and the navy were and remain special instruments for the implementation of policy, nothing more than that. But the policy of the state as a whole. The army must not be embroiled in formulating, much less implementing, party policy within the state or become the means of securing a particular party's or political movement's objectives. It is particularly dangerous when the armed forces themselves become a kind of quasi- party and fight for power, which in this case risks becoming nothing but a military dictatorship. That scenario is completely precluded by the Constitution and legislation of any rule-of-law state.

But let us return to the hero of our piece. Aleksandr Lebed, who has found himself the focus of public attention and is developing a taste for it, has increasingly boldly overstepped the dividing line between army life and politics. According to the latest press reports, Aleksandr Ivanovich has been invited to head an influential patriotic and pro-state [derzhavnyy] political movement. But an opposition general and politician who has not foresworn the military life is a "candidate Napoleon," a constitutional usurper of power. And any dictatorship is contrary to the constitutional system, be it the rule of the most enlightened, personally honest, and intelligent officer.

In the public imagination he is an honest, intelligent, and unsullied professional army man, a bold defender of a foreign state's Russian-speaking citizens. In actual fact Gen. Lebed has long since deserved more credit than being the commander of a troop formation of several thousand men, known as an army out of politeness. But is there a vacancy for Lebed? I am afraid that there is not. District commander is no big deal. Even now the 14th Army is in the position of a military district, as it were (only abroad). What about deputy minister? The Defense Ministry has loads of them without him coming along. Furthermore, A. Lebed personally and professionally is less of a colleague and subordinate than a rival for the incumbent defense minister.

Aleksandr Ivanovich is a born military inspector. That is a post which is particularly lacking at the Presidential Staff and the Government apparatus. Inspector general of the Armed Forces, in other words someone who has the right and the duty of inspecting everything, but commanding nothing—in our view that post is equally beneficial to both the supreme state leadership and the Armed Forces themselves and appropriate for the kind of "high-caliber individual" that Aleksandr Ivanovich Lebed undoubtedly is.

Working outside the Defense Ministry and the General Staff, an inspector general would be an independent, extradepartmental "master's eye," which is what is lacking today in the supreme state leadership and the Russian Armed Forces themselves.

In short we suggest that the post of Inspector General of the Russian Armed Forces be instituted, subordinate to the chairman of the Federation Council, the President of the Russian Federation, and directly to an official within the apparatus of the Service of the head of state's aides or in the apparatus of the Russian president's Security Council. The most suitable person for this job is Lt. Gen. Aleksandr Ivanovich Lebed. Give him a lofty post before his swan song becomes a hawkish scream.

As you know, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev offered the commander of the 14th Russian Army the post of deputy commander of the Transbaykal Military District for combat training. Commenting on Aleksandr Lebed's stance, Pavel Grachev said the following: "...Judging by his political statements and involvement in various congresses, Aleksandr Ivanovich has of late had a penchant for politics.... The ministry leadership has noticed this and the army commander has been asked to abandon this activity but he has not as yet heeded our suggestion. I do not think that a strong politician can be made of A. Lebed."

General Lebed on Chechnya, NATO, Media

954F2135A Novosibirsk VECHERNIY NOVOSIBIRSK in Russian 13 Apr 95 p 5

[Report on interview with General Aleksandr Lebed by Vladimir Kuzmenkin at the Third Congress of Russian Communities; date not given: "The General Who Does Not Try To Please Anyone: Aleksandr Lebed Knows Precisely 'How Things Should Be Done'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow-Novosibirsk—**This lieutenant general of the Russian Army does not need an introduction: He is probably the most popular man in uniform today. Popular among both the military and civilian population. We heard about him for the first time during the August putsch; then he was appointed to the command of the 14th Army in the Dniester area. There were statements about a goat and carrots, unflattering opinions of top officials in the Russian leadership. People got to know Lebed, and, having gotten to know him, many wanted to see in him as the future president of Russia.**

Lebed gave interviews and talked about his position with journalists, but did not declare it publicly. He did it at the Third Congress of Russian Communities, in a speech that may be considered a program statement (keeping in mind that none of the mass media in the country published its text, we decided to publish it in VECHERNIY NOVOSIBIRSK next week). Speeches notwithstanding, the general is interesting to journalists not only by his official statements. Therefore, most of the 200 journalists accredited at the congress plus interested delegates literally attacked the general. Lebed firmly held his line, but

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after saying "I have no time for newspapers," at the same time began to answer questions. All sorts of questions...

[Kuzmenkin] Aleksandr Ivanovich, how do you know "how things should be done?" What makes you so convinced that you are right?

[Lebed] I will try to publish a book within the next two months. Its title is somewhat pretentious: "I Hurt for the Country." Four hundred seventy-one pages. I will put everything in it. It is hard to answer this question in two words. I think you will agree with it.

[Kuzmenkin] You came up with a very unexpected idea of organizing a state funeral for the remains of Nicholas II and Lenin simultaneously. The reaction was, I think, very ambiguous...

[Lebed] Any concept and idea goes through three stages in its development. The first stage: This is baloney. At first it is perceived with irritation, and then with an afterthought: There is something in it... There are the whites and there are the reds—no matter how they call themselves, they are still the whites and the reds. This division has never resulted in any good, and never will.

[Kuzmenkin] Elections are coming soon. There is a lot of talk about you running.

[Lebed] I have not heard a more idiotic question for a long time.

[Kuzmenkin] Many people hold a grudge against General Lebed for not "rescuing" the Supreme Soviet in 1993.

[Lebed] People on the same team were quarreling over power. None of them got hurt. The leaders spent some time in a cooler, then they forgave each other and were released. While the small fry were buried in political games.

[Kuzmenkin] You took part in the work of the Congress of Russian Communities. What are your impressions?

[Lebed] Generally, more positive than negative. Positive because it took place; negative because I have certain criticisms—probably because of my disagreeable character. But the important part is that now we have a guiding star: where to go.

[Kuzmenkin] Why did you come to this movement of all places?

[Lebed] Where else?

[Kuzmenkin] You had many offers.

[Lebed] Yeah, I did. I have no liking for or interest in their platforms, programs, and views. Russians have gathered here: If I stand up—with my face—and start saying that I am a Jew or Georgian, nobody will not believe me...

[Kuzmenkin] Does the congress have a future?

[Lebed] It does. How can it not have one? It is a movement behind which there are 124 million Russians on the territory of Russia alone and 25 million outside it. One hundred fifty million people!

[Kuzmenkin] But Aleksandr Rutskoy's Derzhava believes, for instance, that Russia is behind it.

[Lebed] Good luck to this calf in saving our wolf. We will see. I am not going to beat my chest and talk about it. We have to take action, and only then gather up the pundits and ask: "Well, pundits! Explain what it is that I have done!"

[Kuzmenkin] You were asked here whether your service would be an impediment in your work with the congress.

[Lebed] A hare married an elephant and became exhausted kissing it. You see? He lost weight. And then everything settled down...

[Kuzmenkin] The Dniester area. There is a lot of talk about your slugging it out with the republic leadership.

[Lebed] What sort of slugging it out?

[Kuzmenkin] They complain about you.

[Lebed] Let them complain. This is their problem. It is their job—to complain.

[Kuzmenkin] There was a referendum. What are the potential consequences?

[Lebed] No consequences. It was clear from the very beginning that it is impossible to withdraw the army from there and we have to preserve the status quo. It was clear to anyone with a brain. Now the referendum has confirmed the same thing: Why repeat the obvious?

[Kuzmenkin] But the Dniester Republic has not been recognized.

[Lebed] You can recognize it or not recognize it. It has its own bodies of authority; it has a president. Of what kind—is a different question, but he exists. Just as there is a parliament, councils, and a constitution. Anyway, it will soon be five years since this republic was formed. As I recall it, Soviet Russia was not recognized until 1932. They did not recognize it for a long time, and then gave up and recognized it. This is a fact, reality.

[Kuzmenkin] Do you not feel uncomfortable that the Dniester people express one opinion, and Russian politicians a different one?

[Lebed] I will come back and sort it out. Shumeyko dropped this, but he could only get this information in Krikovo wine cellars and sitting at the very last barrel.

[Kuzmenkin] But you are a military man. If you are ordered to pull the army out, you will.

[Lebed] You go there and look. Walk around, and look. You will the see the relations and draw this conclusion yourself—whether such an army can be pulled out. You

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have to begin with simple things, the simplest—the people who were born there: They are Russians by birth, they serve in the army. They got there as a result of the lopsided personnel policy of the past years. Regiments and divisions were being dissolved, and the personnel people, unable to normally reassign officers in a matter of two months, sent them to their place of residence. This is the way the 14th Army was manned: More than 50 percent of officers and 80 percent of warrant officers are local. They are doing an excellent job; they are ready to serve wherever the motherland sends them. But they want to have guarantees that if they leave here today, their relatives will not be massacred.

[Kuzmenkin] You are frequently subjected to inspections by various brass. How do you feel about this?

[Lebed] No problem. I like inspections.

[Kuzmenkin] Russia's security system: What should it be?

[Lebed] Answering this question would take three days without any lunch breaks. Security should be built on the Russian national foundation—this is a guarantee of national security. And it must be designed for all the hearts of the Russian military—not German, American, or Japanese.

[Kuzmenkin] Is NATO a threat to Russia today?

[Lebed] Of course, how else?...

[Kuzmenkin] NATO is expanding. What will happen if Poland and other East European countries join the bloc?

[Lebed] There will be a World War III that will bury everybody under its rubble: the civilized and the uncivilized, the imbeciles, and all others.

[Kuzmenkin] But who will start this war?

[Lebed] There will be takers.

[Kuzmenkin] NATO?

[Lebed] Of course.

[Kuzmenkin] Why?

[Lebed] And why crawl toward Russian borders?! There was the Warsaw Pact and the NATO bloc—two blocs in a confrontation with each other. The Cold War is over; I am surprised: Why did they not put Bush on the foundation of the Dzerzhinskiy monument and write on it: "To the Winner in the Cold War." He would look good there. He did win it—everybody agreed with this. So why now? Confrontation with who? Against who?!

[Kuzmenkin] Why is all this needed?

[Lebed] Territory is needed, to fulfill certain functions. It is large—one-eighth of the world. There is a lot of everything in it—just pump it out! There are 150 million cattle on it. This is what they want, but they will not get it. You know, the Russians have this gesture...

[Kuzmenkin] Your position on Chechnya.

[Lebed] I have already said: There is a slaughter taking place there. We have not used either political or economic measures. They nurtured this regime, and now they all jumped to beat up on it. My position is that you only need to hit twice: Once on the head and the second time on the lid of the coffin. This is the correct way to organize things.

[Kuzmenkin] There is a rumor that General Lebed's position has changed.

[Lebed] Of course it has changed. Spring is coming: The shrubs and trees are greening. Shali was surrendered calmly. A sluggish, endless war will begin. There will be 10-12 dead every day—this is not too many, mothers will bear more. But this will be every day: every 10 days—120; every 100 days—1,200. Corpses of people and animals under the rubble will start talking. They will be talking the language of hepatitis, the plague, and cholera. We have glorious prospects: Tomorrow waves of it will spread all over Russia, carried by refugees, relatives, rotating military servicemen. So, of course the position changed: Spring dictates its conditions.

[Kuzmenkin] And from the viewpoint of a military man?

[Lebed] What I said was said from the standpoint of a military man. We have to prepare; we need to learn the military art properly. The army's structure should be: six fighting men and four service personnel. This is the proportion! You get him up in the middle of the night—before he opens his eyes—and he ought to jump into the turret, shoot, and hit the target. To do this, you have to train 22 days a month. This will be a military, thank God! They will crush anybody.

[Kuzmenkin] How do you feel about the idea of increasing the service term?

[Lebed] It is easy to slacken the reins and hard to pull them tight again. In 1990 everybody was applauding: Oh! We exempted students. The intellectual level in the military has dropped sharply, and the number of soldiers also has declined sharply. We have dumped it all on semi-literates and illiterates. And now, when it finally began to get through that the military and the country are directly dependent on it... Can you imagine, for instance, some Afghanistan in 1979-1980 to dare to attack the Soviet Union? You cannot imagine it, right?! But now they are trying!

[Kuzmenkin] How about a professional military then?

[Lebed] Russia will never have a professional military. We do not and will not have the money for it. There are only two professional militaries in the world: the British and the American. The Americans spent 13 years building it after Vietnam, and put 17 social programs under it. We cannot pull this through, and therefore, whether we want it or not, we will have to man it with draftees. How to use them is another matter! This is what

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we need to think about! For instance, introduce a territorial system of manning the units. For instance, man Moscow region units with Muscovites. Let the mamas go and inspect them. Why is there not enough porridge? Why are the sheets dirty? Why did Vasya slap Petya? Go and sort it out, mom. And for God's sake, dear, do not hassle the commander—he has a lot of other things to do. And you should not make students squad commanders—they do not know how to approach the squad. They get confused about parts of a soldier's anatomy. They do not always kiss the right place... The people and the military are one—but we have to use our heads.

[Kuzmenkin] How do you feel about the press?

[Lebed] I have great respect for the press as a whole, even though I disagree with some. Speaking of honesty and decency, before we even took a lunch break one already rushed out with the headline: "Lebed Recommended Holding On to the Russian Core." And the subhead: "The Ass Fell Off the Russian Patriot." Well, let him be...

[Kuzmenkin] Do you know that you are immensely popular not only among the military, but also among the civilian population?

[Lebed] I have never tried to please anyone. This question is not for me.

[Kuzmenkin] What do you think will happen to us?

[Lebed] This is what you ask a fortune-teller.

Stepashin: Foreign Intelligence Targets Defense

LD2504215495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1955 GMT 25 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NIZHNY NOVGOROD, April 25 (Interfax-Eurasia)—Chief of the Federal Counterintelligence (FSB) Sergey Stepashin says the country's defense sector remains in the focus of foreign intelligence. He was speaking at a meeting by FSB senior officials in Nizhny Novgorod on Tuesday.

The meeting discussed how to tighten security at the country's nuclear facilities and military-industrial complex.

Stepashin said that the area of interests by foreign intelligence covers Russia's shipbuilding (submarines and warships), aerospace technologies, mass destruction weapons and prototypes of conventional weapons, tanks and tank protection and weapons based on new principles of physics.

Growing threats of nuclear sabotage was also on the agenda, members of the FSB's local branch told Interfax. Senior FSB officials approved a range of measures aimed to tighten security at the defense-related nuclear facilities and prevent the divulgence of state secrets and sabotage or terrorist attacks.

Northern Fleet Feature Shows 'Super-Modern' Sub

MM2504090995 Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 0730 GMT 16 Apr 95

[From the "Peleng Alpha" program: Video report by Igor Prokopenko, identified by caption; figures in brackets denote broadcast time in GMT in hours, minutes, and seconds]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Prokopenko over video of recent Northern Fleet exercises] Russia's Navy has been guarding the state's maritime borders for almost 300 years. Its history began in the Baltic and the Black Seas and continued 75 years ago also in the North. Since that time Northern Fleet surface ships and submarines have constituted a most important part of our country's defense potential at sea.

In recent years, following the disintegration of the USSR and the loss of positions in the Black and Baltic Seas, the Northern Fleet has acquired special strategic importance. It is no accident that NATO country submarines are increasingly patrolling this area in particular.

What you see here is rare footage. A U.S. nuclear submarine in Arctic waters. [video shows conning tower emerging through Arctic ice and what appears to be the interior of a U.S. submarine] Despite expanding cooperation and confidence-building measures, series production of the latest multi-role nuclear submarines, especially adapted for operation in Arctic conditions, will begin in the United States next year. Can we, in turn, create the necessary preconditions to ensure that the Northern Fleet serves as a sufficient nuclear deterrent?

This year the ships of the Northern Fleet put to sea on 60 occasions. Despite pessimistic forecasts, the fleet is coping with the tasks it has been set. But at what cost to the sailors? The pride and beauty of the Navy, the nuclear missile cruiser Admiral Ushakov, has been laid up for the past four years, awaiting an overhaul. Dozens of other warships share the same fate. The reason is banal—lack of money. Nonetheless, the main problem lies elsewhere.

[Andrey Kokoshin, Russian Federation first deputy defense minister, identified by caption] The main problem is connected with the nuclear safety of decommissioned submarines. This is our main priority.

[Prokopenko over video of moored submarines] Under the terms of the START I Treaty 126 nuclear submarines have been decommissioned. They all have to be dismantled and recycled.

[Prokopenko to camera] At the moment the problem of dismantling warships which have reached the end of their service life is just as acute for the Navy as the problem of obtaining new ships.

Meanwhile the process of dismantling ships is no less expensive than building new ones. To date only 11

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submarines have been broken up; 13 are in the process of being dismantled. The rest are awaiting their turn. The disused submarines moored at the quayside demand no less attention and expenditure than operational ones. And what is more, they are a heightened radiation hazard. This is what a submarine which is being dismantled looks like. Where you see the wire mesh, nuclear launch tubes were located until recently.

[Rear Admiral Shcherbak] Having done their duty, just like people, these subs have now been laid off.

This is Rear Admiral Shcherbak. He commanded this submarine for seven years. Sailors are not sentimental people. So this probably is a question of something other than sentimentality.

[Shcherbak] These vessels could defend the fatherland for several years to come. It was not for nothing that they were feared by our potential enemies, or "friends" in quotation marks as they are now referred to.

[Prokopenko] One day history will acurately assess the price of the demise of these submarines. Today we are forced to build new ones. What you see is unique footage of a super-modern nuclear submarine which will become the flagship, probably not just of the Northern Fleet, in the 21st century. [video shows brief footage of submarine with tube covers open]

The outpost on our northern maritime border is still a force which cannot be ignored. The heightened interest shown by foreign special services in the latest large-scale exercises of the Northern Fleet was not fortuitous. The exercise area was hemmed in by submarines and spy planes. Thus the Northern Fleet's standard of training was being assessed not just by the command. The other side was also able to see for itself that the Russian Navy is staffed with high-class professionals.

However, we must not forget that the future might of the Russian Navy depends directly on the solution of its current problems. [075143] [video shows naval ships during recent exercise; conning tower of U.S. submarine emerging through ice; submarines and warships in port; Kokoshin clip; submarines being dismantled; Shcherbak interview; brief "unique footage" of super-modern submarine under construction; more exercise footage]

Defense Restoration Work Planned for Kurils

MM2804085795 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Valeriy Usoltsev: "We Will Restore the Kurils and Build Housing for the Military. If We Have the Money..."]

[FBIS Translated Text] "The Kurils garrisons destroyed by the October earthquake of last year will carry on being restored by the construction subunits of the Far East Military District," Colonel General Anatoliy Solomatin, Russian Federation deputy minister of defense for construction and the billeting of troops, who has been working in the Far East, told your KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent. "However, the Ministry of Defense will allocate money for this."

I would recall that so far almost all restoration work on the Kurils has been carried out using the so-called internal reserves of the Far East Military District. At present the restoration of the island garrisons has been agreed within the construction plans for this year and is under the personal control of the Russian defense minister.

Colonel General Solomatin also stated that housing construction in the Far East Military District will increase, and the Khabarovsk Reinforced Concrete Plant combine will develop the construction of quality housing over the next two years. Over 200 apartments will be built this year for Far East Military District men being transferred to the reserve in the western region. When asked how many apartments like this will appear in the Far East, Anatoliy Vasilyevich answered: "It all depends on how much money the military department has...."

Well, neither the deputy minister nor the minister himself are miracle workers, and they cannot turn figures on paper into housing for servicemen.

'Spektr' Launch Preparations Under Way at Baykonur

MM2704142495 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1300 GMT 20 Apr 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast: Announcer-read report over video of space launch preparations]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer Dmitriy Borisov over video of "Spektr" module] Preparations are under way at the Baykonur Cosmodrome for the launch of the "Spektr" module. Installation and testing of scientific equipment, including U.S. equipment, are drawing to a close. The launch is scheduled for 17 May and is to take place using a Proton-K carrier to be launched by Russia's military space forces.

The "Spektr" is to dock with the "Mir" station one week after the launch.

The "Mir" crew—Vladimir Dezhurov, Gennadiy Strekalov, and the American Norman Thagard—are also getting ready for the arrival of "Spektr." Before the docking the Russian cosmonauts have to carry out four space walks. The first of these is scheduled for 28 April. [video shows module, picture of module, file footage of mission control center]

Federal Assembly

Yeltsin Approves Laws Adopted By State Duma

LD2804120895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1155 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW April 28 (ITAR-TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed on

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Friday the following Federal laws: "On amendments to the Code of Civil Procedure of the Russian Federation" passed by the State Duma on April 5, 1995; "On amendments and supplements to the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation and the Code of Criminal Procedure of the Russian Federation" passed by the State Duma on April 5, 1995; "On Amendments and supplements to the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation and the Code of the Russian Federation on administrative violations" adopted by the State Duma on March 24, 1995, ITAR-TASS learnt from the Russian President's press service.

Yeltsin Signs Law on Russian Central Bank

LD2604100795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0913 GMT 26 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 26 Apr—Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, today signed a law "On Amendments and Addenda to the RSFSR Law on 'On the Central Bank of the RSFSR (Bank of Russia).'" ITAR-TASS was informed of this by the presidential press service.

The law was passed by the State Duma in the form proposed by the president on 12 April 1994 after a second examination. The first version of the law that was passed by the deputies in February 1994 was declined by the president.

Yeltsin Vetoes Law on Banks, Banking Activity

LD2604164995 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian president has turned down the law on banks and banking activity which was approved by the Russian parliament. Boris Yeltsin gave the following reason for his decision: The document does not fully correspondent to the Constitution and the Civil Code. The president proposed that a conciliatory commission be set up to finalize the law.

Decree on Russian Securities Market Assessed

MM2504135195 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Apr 95 First Edition p 3

[Commentary by Aleksandr Velichenkov under the rubric "Foreword to Document": "Housing Certificate"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Federation Government Decree "On Measures To Develop the Securities Market in the Russian Federation" outlines approaches to certain pressing questions which have become especially topical in recent times.

Numerous conflicts at the annual shareholder meetings of joint- stock companies of privatized enterprises (even including hunger strikes by shareholders) connected with the keeping of registers of shareholders, the counting of votes, and the procedures for adopting decisions—including on a secondary issue of shares—have impressed upon the government the need to regulate these questions. This applies equally to the development and regulation of the securities market. The projected measures, which include the creation of a Russian stock-market telecommunications system, will undoubtedly make our stock market more civilized.

The clause on the participation of nonresidents in the acquisition of shares issued by Russian enterprises gives rise to certain questions. There are doubts that the Federal Commission for Securities and the Stock Market is up to resolving this issue. After all, someone becomes a nonresident precisely so as not to carry out economic activity on Russian territory. To allow nonresidents only to buy shares is economically senseless; a situation could arise at any time whereby a nonresident winds down operations in Russia—what is he then to do with the shares? They are not quoted in other countries. Consequently, nonresidents must be permitted to sell shares as well. And this is already economic activity and the derivation of profit. Therefore, a nonresident must be registered as a Russian juristic person. But then the problem needs examining at a higher level.

All the signs suggest that regional, oblast, municipal, and so forth, loans, bonds, and housing certificates will soon be given a legal basis. This will affect above all the taxation of securities.

Concerning the problems of post-voucher privatization, the decree chimes in with previously adopted documents. At the same time the thesis on the implementation of "measures for replacing share deposition certificates with registered shares" could invite different interpretations. For example, does this mean an end to the circulation of securities in the name of the bearer? Bearing in mind that the introduction in our country of a mechanism based on the circulation not of shares, but share deposition certificates (so-called ADR's [American depository receipts] in U.S. stock- market practice) is being actively discussed, can one consider that our stock market will be deprived of this promising mechanism?

Provisions of Amnesty on 1945 Victory Anniversary

MM2704084695 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Petr Karapetyan: "Amnesty Adopted by State Duma in Connection with the 50th Anniversary Enters Into Force"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Around 7,000 convicts will be freed in May-June, and 3,000 will have their sentence amended. Around 70,000 participants in the Great Patriotic War will be released from colonies and prisons.

The amnesty also extends to group I, II, and III invalids, pregnant women, women with children under the age of 18, women over 55, men over 60, minors, participants in combat action in defense of the motherland, and also

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individuals sentenced for crimes of negligence for terms of up to five years. The amnesty will not apply to those sentenced for serious crimes and will not affect individuals serving a sentence for breaking and entering, racketeering, and crimes in the sphere of the economy, or to criminal cases which are in the investigation stage.

Duma Geopolitics Committee's Gusman on Progress

MK2704105095 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 27 Apr 95 p 3

[Interview with Yuliy Gusman by Yan Ulanskiy: "Geopolitics Is a Science, Not a Military Doctrine"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The State Duma Committee on Geopolitical Questions was created on Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's initiative and became composed mainly of LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] faction members. But despite the numerous forecasts, the committee has not become a generator of nonsensical ideas. What is more, its chairman Viktor Ustinov recently abandoned the Liberal Democrats' camp to join the new "Stability" faction. Our correspondent talks with Yuliy Gusman, deputy chairman of the committee, about on what and how the Duma geopoliticians worked.

[Ulanskiy] What did the committee manage to do during its one year of work?

[Gusman] Four draft laws developed by us were passed. In their number are the laws on the border and the days of military glory. Ready for first reading is a draft law on the continental shelf. [passages omitted]

[Ulanskiy] What is geopolitics after all?

[Gusman] It can be defined briefly as political interaction of states and groups of states depending on their position on the map and on historical peculiarities. For example, our geopolitical position obviously changed in the wake of the USSR's disintegration. [passage omitted]

[Ulanskiy] Whose objective is it to develop a geopolitical concept of the state?

[Gusman] Unfortunately, no one here is developing the state's geopolitical concept. Geopolitics is only seen as a science and it is virtually not taken into account in real politics. Such a concept is being partially developed in our committee and in the Foreign Ministry. But, possibly, it should be set forth point by point and promulgated like, say, a military doctrine would. [passage omitted]

[Ulanskiy] There must be some crimps in the workings of the LDPR now. People are leaving the faction. Take your committee chairman, who also quit.

[Gusman] I do not know the details of relations between them, but there are many deputies in the LDPR who do not share their chief's "liberal-democratic" beliefs. More people could have left the faction, but some stay on having an ax to grind; others think it unethical to leave a sinking ship, still others are simply afraid. But LDPR members still are in the majority in our committee. I repeat, however, that there exists among us mutual respect for views and stands. My amendments, in particular to the draft law on military service, were taken into account. But I did not support it on the whole. Although I fully realize that reforms in the army are of vital necessity, a moral audit, say, should be conducted. For example, you can read in the papers about hungry conscripts in Salekhard or in Kursk and also right there and then about generals' enormous dachas worth $300,000 to $500,000. Why not sell those very dachas and feed the conscripts? You mustn't think I am against generals' having dachas, but one would like to know with what money were they built? And, naturally, everyone would like the Russian Army to look as good as did the English on the Falklands, or the Americans in Iraq. If one is to allocate money to the army at all, it should go for a radical reequipment, for electronic equipment, for expanding contract-based service. It is stupid to sink trillions into maintaining a huge, unwieldy and obsolete military machine which it currently is.

[Ulanskiy] Let us go back to your committee.

[Gusman] The committee mostly has a stand completely different from the stand of our "Russia's Choice" faction or from my own. But work on laws, at the same time, is proceeding normally. There is an enormous gulf between the extreme views, slogans, and real policy. It is one thing to utter "the last dash to the South" [Zhirinovskiy's autobiography] and quite another to attack India. It's like the saying: It [an elephant] can eat [a hundred kilos of bananas], but who'd let it?

Regional Affairs

Reportage, Commentary on Situation in Chechnya

Ministry on Search for U.S. Citizen

LD2704140495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1340 GMT 27 Apr 95

[By Olga Semenova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 27 (Itar-Tass)—Russian Interior Minister Viktor Yerin gave a concrete assignment to the head of the Chief branch of the criminal investigation department and interior units stationed in Chechnya in connection with the disappearance in the zone of combat actions on the territory of the Chechen Republic of American citizen Fred Cuny and Russian citizens who accompanied him, head of the public relations center of the Russian Interior ministry, Vladimir Vorozhtsov, told Itar-Tass here today.

Unfortunately, he said, the search has been made more difficult because American officials informed the Interior ministry bodies too late.

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American representatives should have reported on Fred Cuny's disappearance to interior bodies immediately but not to new media as under Russian legislation just as in any other country, militia will not start searching for a disappeared person without an official inquiry, Vladimir Vorozhtsov stressed. [sentence as received]

Units of interior troops, special detachments of police and quick reaction forces on the struggle against organized crime have been taking all necessary measures to establish the location of Fred Cuny and his Russian companions.

The Interior ministry representative also noted that Fred Cuny had arrived in Chechnya actually illegally without informing the command of the allied federal forces of his intentions.

According to Vladimir Vorozhtsov, this is often the case with members of different humanitarian missions and journalists who thus subject themselves to additional risks.

When journalists receive accreditation at the temporary information center, and representatives of governmental or public organizations notify the command of the federal forces about their arrival in Chechnya, they are provided with proper guard, the head of the public relations center stressed. So far, none of them has disappeared, he noted.

Grachev on Resolving Crisis

LD2804143895 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 1300 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Commemorative medals for the 50th victory anniversary were presented to World War II veterans on Friday [28 April] at the Central House of the Russian Army [servicemen's club in Moscow]. Defense Minister Pavel Grachev personally handed the medals to 39 generals, heroes of the Soviet Union and full bearers of the Order of Glory. After the ceremony, Grachev said in an interview with "2x2" that he envisages several ways of resolving the Chechen crisis by peaceful means.

[Begin Grachev recording] The first option is the most desirable. It involves a meeting with field commanders, without Dzhokhar Dudayev who has been found guilty of crimes against the state—and anyway, it is hard to say whether he still exists or not. The focus of the talks will be on the remaining bandit formations handing over their weapons and equipment at once, admitting their defeat, and stopping the hostilities. Only in this case—in accordance with the decision of our president and supreme commander, among other things—will their safety be guaranteed. If these proposals are not implemented, we shall take the matter further—that is, in spite of everything, we shall continue disarming illegal formations. [end recording]

Provided that the central ministries and departments become more actively involved in restoring the devastated economy of Chechnya, it should be possible to resolve this problem quite soon, Pavel Grachev said.

[Begin Grachev recording] I think it can be resolved to some extent by the end of 1995, and what unfortunately had to be destroyed can be restored in the course of 1996. [end recording]

Grachev on Cease-Fire Implementation

MM2804092095 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Oleg Vladykin: "Victory Parade-95: Rehearsals Under Way"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A second rehearsal for the military parade to mark the 50th anniversary of victory in the Great Patriotic War took place on Poklonnaya Gora late Wednesday evening. This time it was held according to the fullest possible program for this event, including an inspection of the troops by the Russian Federation minister of defense himself and precise timing of the whole parade operation.

Assessing the results of the rehearsal, Army General Pavel Grachev told the invited journalists that he would be acting against his conscience if he voiced satisfaction with the parade team's preparation. But there is still time to eliminate the shortcomings, the minister emphasized.

In the presence of the mass media's representatives, as usual, Army Gen. Grachev explained the positions of the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense on the most topical issues at this time.

In particular, the Russian Federation president's edict imposing a moratorium on combat operations in Chechnya did not pass without comment. According to the minister of defense, its implementation is realistic. The edict has already been conveyed to the field commanders of the illegal armed formations. But this certainly does not mean that, if they open fire on federal troops, there will not be a response to this.

In principle, it is possible to stop the conflict in Chechnya by means of active intervention in its course at the concluding stage, Army Gen. Grachev said. Practically all the field commanders wish to meet with the Russian Federation minister of defense and discuss the question of the final cessation of combat operations. He has, in general, been set the task of examining the possibility of such a meeting. Colonel General Anatoliy Kvashnin, the minister's plenipotentiary, is already working in this direction.

Grachev Alleges Cease-Fire Violations

LD2804144695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1324 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 28 (Interfax)—Russian Defense Chief Pavel Grachev on Friday accused Chechen fighters of violating the Yeltsin's declared moratorium on regional fighting.

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"Chechen militants opened fire on federal troops in two districts of Chechnya overnight killing one member of the security forces and injuring four others", he told Interfax. Three Russian troops were also wounded.

The minister said Russian forces returned fire in both incidents.

Grachev suggests that some of the rebel units must be unaware of the moratorium decree adding that Russian army representatives were now getting into contact with Chechen units. He does not rule out that the shelling of Russian positions will soon be stopped. The moratorium is in force from April 28 to May 12.

The ceasefire is on the agenda of today's talks between Russian command representatives and Aslan Maskhadov, chief of staff of the Chechen forces.

A defense ministry spokesman in Groznyy told Interfax that there was no active fighting in the region though the rebels "continue provocative attacks" on Russian troop positions. He said one Russian soldier was killed and several others wounded overnight.

The spokesman said the federal forces open artillery fire to wipe out the rebels' firing positions.

Spokesman on Compliance With Moratorium

LD2704130695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1239 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 27 (Itar-Tass)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Wednesday signed an edict decreeing a moratorium on combat activities by both parties to the conflict, the Presidential press secretary Sergey Medvedev told Itar-Tass.

The content of the edict will be brought to the notice of all persons concerned on the Russian side and, where possible, of the Dudayev field commanders, the Secretary said.

As to whether or not the edict would be complied with by the Dudayev forces, the secretary said, it is up to their conscience to prompt.

The Presidential edict concerning additional measures to normalise the situation in the Chechen republic decrees a moratorium on the use of armed forces on the territory of the Chechen republic from 00.00 of April 28 to 00.00 of May 12, 1995.

"In the event of acts of armed provocation in the Chechen republic, actions to be taken by the units and formations of the Temporary combined forces assigned to disarm all unlawfully armed groups on the territory of the Chechen republic shall be determined proceeding from the specific situation.

"The preliminary investigation agencies are recommended not to call to criminal account those individuals who have not been involved in grave crimes against the life and health of citizens and who will have laid down arms voluntarily by May 12.

"The edict comes into force from the moment of signing," the press service said.

Opposition Leader on Moratorium

LD2704233795

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian at 1540 GMT 27 Apr 95 broadcasts a 20-minute studio interview with Doku Zavgayev, former chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Chechen-Ingush Republic disbanded by Dzhokhar Dudayev and now chairman of the Assembly of the Chechen People. Reception is good.

Commenting on Yeltsin's edict on the moratorium on the use of force in Chechnya, he says:

"In my view, it was a wise decision by the president and the government. Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin himself already spoke about it in his TV interview. This edict was expected; people were waiting for a moratorium decision. The most important thing now, and this answers the aspirations not only of the Chechen population itself but of all our country, is to ensure that this moratorium does not end in a week or two as specified but essentially becomes the beginning of an end to all armed actions—not only in northern Caucasus. Let's hope to God that this moratorium should become a ban on any use of force in our country. This is not only my personal view, this is the view of many people I have talked to.

"As for the situation in the Chechen Republic, the moratorium will be a pre-condition for ending military actions there."

He goes on to reaffirm his stance opposing the use of force in Chechnya:

"I still maintain the same position. If you had asked me today, I would have given you the same answer. What has happened and is happening on territory of the former Chechen-Ingush Republic was not initiated by the people who are, unfortunately, suffering and who have fallen the first victim to the criminal regime created and led by Dudayev and his accomplices."

He goes on to say:

"I know very well that the president was constantly looking for a peaceful solution to this problem. One should be objective and honest here, what is true is true. No matter what might happen, a peaceful solution to the problem was sought. Whether all the methods, whether all the possibilities were exhausted is another matter."

He continues:

"It seems to me that the current resistance of the field commanders is mainly caused by the fact that those who allegedly offer them a cease-fire and arms surrender do

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not inspire their trust. They do not trust them. Naturally, if the warring sides in the republic at present do not have mutual trust, they will never agree on anything except to continue what they have been doing lately. Therefore it is necessary to count on new people, on people who enjoy support of the local population, inter alia those whom the field commanders trust. If these commanders are offered a truce by a person who will keep his word and whom they trust, I believe the moratorium announced by President Boris Yeltsin will be observed."

Zavgayev, however, does not name any names. He says the Chechen people themselves should decide since they know who is worth what.

Speaking of the objectives of the Chechen Assembly congress held in Moscow on 26 April, he says its main task was to disperse the negative image of the Chechen people created by Dudayev's regime in the last three years. Another important task was "to assist in restoring peace and civil accord in the Chechen Republic and around it, to restore good-neighborly relations not only on a human level but to restore economic ties; in other words, to join normal political, economic, and cultural life of the rest of Russia."

Chechen Commanders To Ignore Cease-Fire

LD2704175395 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 27 Apr 95

[Video report by correspondent Andrey Cherkasov]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Cherkasov] [Video shows military hardware, men in uniform, civilians, destroyed buildings in Groznyy and other areas] The reaction of the commanders of the Chechen formations to Moscow's proposal to suspend fire for the period of the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the victory has been controversial. Thus, the commander of the Western group of militants said that they will ignore Yeltsin's order and continue to fight against the Russian troops. At the same time, a meeting has been scheduled for tomorrow [28 April] between a representative of the command of the Federal troops and Aslan Maskhadov, the chief of staff of the Chechen armed formations. This meeting is likely to tackle the question of the moratorium on the hostilities in the republic.

On the whole, the situation is fairly calm—there is a lull on the whole front, and there is no active fighting. The troops are continuing to disarm the Chechen formations in and around Alleroy, Orekhovo, and Staryy Achkhoy. Two bases of fighters have been destroyed in Bamut, which is still being shelled by Russian artillery. Three grenade launchers and 26 firearms have been seized. According to the information of the federal troops, 40 Dudayev's militants have been killed in the last 24 hours. On the Russian side, two people were killed and seven wounded. The situation remains complicated in Groznyy. The restoration work is in full swing there, the surgical center, a hospital, two electric power substations, and the Krasnyy Molot works have been cleared of mines, however, Russian outposts are still being fired at during the night. Last night the commandant's office in the Staropromyskovskiy district was shelled. There were no casualties among the Russian troops.

Forty Dudayev Fighters Said Killed

LD2704160595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1421 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 27 (Interfax)—As many as 40 Dudayev fighters were killed over the past 24 hours in the course of the operation by the Russian federal forces to disarm "illegal armed formations" in Chechnya, the press center of the joint group of federal forces told Interfax Thursday.

The operations were conducted near the population centers of Alleroy, Bamut, Orekhovo, Valerik, and Stary Achkhoy. As a result, two air defense guns, five trucks and a mobile fire-control station all belonging to Dudayev's fighters were destroyed. Two fighter bases were liquidated near Bamut. The federal forces captured three mortars, 26 units of small arms, and 69 grenades.

According to various sources, federal forces lost one or two people killed and five-seven wounded.

The federal command center in Groznyy's Staropromyskovskiy region was fired on last night. No losses are reported among Russian servicemen.

As many as 19 sites were cleared of mines in Groznyy, Gudermes, and Shaliy.

Under cover from OMON (special police) nine passenger trains and two cargo trains were moved along the restored section of Chechnya's train tracks. A storage facility has been restored and is able to accept cargo in Achkhoy-Martan.

'Relative Lull' Along Front Line

LD2704183995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1816 GMT 27 Apr 95

[By Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, April 27 (Itar-Tass)—A relative lull settled along the frontline in Chechnya on Thursday. Sporadical shots have been fired at some segments. Chechen rebel fighters are moving to the mountains, using the lull to regroup and build up forces, a Russian Defence Ministry spokesman in Groznyy told Tass.

Sergey Volgin said skirmishes had taken place at the villages of Serzhen-Yurt and Chichi-Yurt. In addition, the military report rebel fighters massing up in the settlements of Vedeno, Shatoi and Nozha-Yurt.

Despite peacekeeping efforts of Russian federal and interior troops, the political and social situation in the

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troubled republic remains complicated. Dudayev loyalists unite into major formations, preparing for sorties in Chechnya's mountainous regions, according to Vladimir Komarov, spokesman for the command of federal troops in Chechnya.

According to the Interior Ministry information, up to one thousand militants have concentrated in the villages of Alleroi, Bilty and Sayasan. The situation in the Nauri district is becoming aggravated following an increasing inflow of refugees from mountainous regions.

Up to 500 refugees return to the Chechen capital Groznyy daily, Komarov said. The city commandant rendered assistance to 334 people over the past twenty-four hours solely, and 33 tons of food supplies were distributed among local residents.

Units Open Fire on Federal Troops

LD2804110695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1025 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOZDOK, April 28 (Interfax)—Chechen units opened fire on federal troops at Nozhai-Yurt, a community in south eastern Chechnya Friday morning. As the press center of the Russian troops combined command has reported to Interfax, four Russian servicemen were wounded as a result of the shelling.

The incident is regarded as a breach by the Chechen side of the moratorium on fighting, which took effect in line with a decree issued by President Yeltsin as of midnight April 28 to last until midnight May 12.

According to intelligence data, the concentration of militants continue in south eastern parts of Chechnya. Among the militants, foreign merceneries have been spotted preparing for further military actions.

According to the press center, "illegal armed units have stepped up their preparation for sabotage and terrorist activities in the areas, controlled by federal trooops. Up to 30 militants, armed with guns and a grenade launcher, entered Groznyy in night time on April 26.

Dudayev Explains Chechen Cause

AU2804115195 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 22 Apr 95 p 10

[Interview with Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev by Lyudmyla Kokhanets in Chechnya; date not given: "I Did Not Send Anybody Call-Up Papers"—first paragraph published in a box]

[FBIS Translated Text] Recently, Sergey Stepashin, chief of the [Russian] Federal Counterintelligence Service [FSK] (presently Security Service), claimed through the mass media: The whereabouts of Dzhokhar Dudayev, the "bandit of the century," are no secret for them and they even know what the disfavored general has for breakfast. I cannot of course compete with Mr. Stepashin's omniscient department: I have not been initiated in the particulars of Dudayev's morning menu. Still, Dzhokhar Dudayev himself confessed to me that he does not normally eat breakfast: He goes to bed before dawn and, after a short sleep, can only have lunch. I met with the president of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria in his homeland, where rivers of blood have been flowing for the fifth month running. Somewhere high above our heads, aircraft droned in the black abyss of the sky. "Bombers," explained the former fighter pilot, "they will again 'work upon' the mountain passes." Disquieting flashes of lightning flared up above the mountains. General Dudayev himself started the interview amidst a war environment. "How is Ukraine, what's new there, my dear friends? How is life in my beloved Poltava Oblast?" he asked in Ukrainian with genuine interest. Only after discussing Poltava news did we proceed to the problems of Chechnya proper. To many people, the general's words may seem too sharp. However, I could not temper them. It was precisely to present his point of view, which one cannot hear through "Ostankino," that I made my way to Dudayev.

[Kokhanets] Mr. President, the "establishment of constitutional order" in your land has brought about great bloodshed. The small Chechen nation is becoming still smaller as the days pass. Do you believe that the war was inevitable? Should both Russia and Chechnya perhaps have been more compliant in their mutual relations?

[Dudayev] I do not think that the war could have been avoided. It is not a matter of our diplomatic straightforwardness. You must understand that Chechnya is only an excuse. Russia is ill with a horrific disease: racism, whose symptoms are extreme cruelty, insidiousness, and lack of spiritual values. Everything that satanism has accumulated over the entire history of this land, which is full of sin, is presently manifested in Russia's actions against small Chechnya. We have felt the pernicious breath of this disease for three centuries. Now, its chronic stage has given way to its death pangs.... Believe me, Chechnya's troubles are nothing extraordinary; they are no greater than in the case of other nations.

We have simply been subjected to the strongest pressure and the most vexing blow. Here, the individual is being destroyed in the cruellest way and his right to life is being trampled upon.

This ideology is more dangerous that fascism, racism, Nazism, or all the misanthropic ideologies put together. If there ever existed a terrorist state, it is Russia. The highest-level officials, starting from the president or prime minister, are taking part in the aggression, destruction, and genocide against Chechnya. Everywhere one can see lawlessness and the power is in the hands of real adventurers. That is why they do everything that they want.

Russia is the only country in the world that has no spiritual values and no faith. Over the centuries, these

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moral values have been beaten out of its unfortunate citizens as unnecessary for the dominating nation. It was only when they embarked upon campaigns against adherents of other faiths that they yelled about faith. When there is no faith, there are no moral values either. These are military hordes, armed to the teeth with supermodern weapons, that carry forth their satanism. This is racism in action.

[Kokhanets] Do you believe that it is Russia that provokes all the interethnic conflicts?

[Dudayev] I am convinced of it; it is not my emotions, but the facts. Unless we probe everything that goes on in Russia and unless mankind takes measures to defend itself, the planet will be scourged with bloody wounds. The Chechens will survive, I have no doubt of this: Over 300 years, we have become used to living on such terms with Russia and have developed immunity to racism. But other nations will not survive.

Throughout its history, Russia has never come through against a stronger or even an equal force. It always selected the weakest and most vulnerable victims and destroyed them to intimidate others. It fancies Nagorno-Karabakh—there you go, Russia grabs and swallows it up. It fancies Abkhazia, North Ossetia, Ingushetia, or the Dniester Region—swallowed up they are. And again Russia goes in circles in search of more game. Aha, here is the Crimea. Harbor no illusions, the troops that are engaged in "disarming bandit formations" in Chechnya will turn to the Crimea. The cards of eastern and southern Ukraine will then be actively played and attempts will be made to have you clash head on and to draw you into a fratricidal war.

Furthermore. Just see how Russia behaves in the international arena. As soon as Israel's relations with its Arab neighbors improved and a constructive dialogue was about to start, here they come—the Russian diplomats. Where else is there a conflict? In former Yugoslavia? Let us go there. Between Turks and Kurds? Lovely—Russian politicians have something to do, all the more so since they already have an trick up their sleeves, and a specially created Kurdish Center is added to the scenario. Who else needs to be "reconciled"? Who needs peacekeeping forces?

Once the "Chechen mafia" is crushed, they will go about creating a Slavic union with renewed vigor. This utopia will inflict an ocean of misery upon you. Of course, the wrapping is quite attractive, but how about the essence? The essence is in enhancing the role of satanism after Ukraine and Belarus are drawn into it. Do not let yourself fall into that trap.

[Kokhanets] Even the most severe disease needs to be treated and not simply diagnosed. Can you offer a remedy for ridding Russia of its "racism"?

[Dudayev] The world must become a physician and not a witness to the disease, a witness who bashfully looks down: "This is Russia's internal affair." No, sirs, not internal. Today, it is Chechnya, and tomorrow—one of you. The whole world must see: Russia is an evil empire and the question of its permanent membership of the Security Council must be put on the agenda. Because, by remaining within such an authoritative body, it only discredits the validity of international legal cooperation. Instead, the aggressor must be isolated from the rest of the world with the help of economic sanctions. There are methods to block the epidemic of racism. Unfortunately, nobody is in a hurry to apply them.

[Kokhanets] Despite Russia's military might, it was unable to turn this war into a blitzkrieg. It is already the fifth month that combat actions have not abated. The Russian troops are having to storm again the same towns that have already been "liberated." Where does the endurance of your military formations lie? As a matter of fact, over the three years of its proclaimed independence, the Chechen Republic has not been able to create its own regular army.

[Dudayev] The phenomenon of endurance lies in the Chechens' spirit. Over all these 300 years, we have always been ready to resist. The Chechens are intrinsically intolerant to slavery. We have not been created for bondage. The Caucasian mountains may be leveled like this table, but nobody will succeed in breaking the spirit of the nation. Not by the most advanced weapons, or by deportations, or through insidious political games.

With regard to our own armed forces, our people are the army. I did not send anybody call-up papers. However, after the aggressor deprived 300,000 people of their homes and deprived them of means for subsistence, he pushed us to the only possible action—fighting.

The Chechen factor has shown that the Russian military operational style and combat tactics may be crossed out and a new page opened. We have the key. War teaches many things. This particularly applies to the Chechens. Is there any other state in the world capable of withstanding for almost five months the enormous military force applied in the same direction and at the same time? (5,600 armored vehicles were simultaneously brought into an area of 11,700 square kilometers). We are getting used to war. Our defensive tactics have so far been like this: While Deynekin [Russian general] in the mountains engages in launching missile and bomb strikes, we learn the skills of fighting in the plains. Experience is gained very fast. We now forbid our combatants in voluntary suicide battalions to throw themselves at tanks, as was the case at the beginning of the combat actions. If only 100 tanks with their crews are the target, only in that case have you the right to risk your life. To rush under every Russian tank—we do not have enough people for that.

Therefore, thanks to Russia, we are forming our own army "on the march." Of course, Ichkeria is too small to maintain such a large military potential here, in the mountains, under the bombs of the Russian "falcons." That is why the "liberated" plain part of our country

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burns under the feet of the "liberators." While sending bombs and missiles at us and covering us with fire, Russia also calls us its citizens. Well, I have nothing against that. Let these 300,000 "subjects of the Russian Federation" go beyond the borders of the "autonomy"—Russia is a large country. Let the people there fight for their right to live. To destroy is not the same as to build. We can also do that. Russian towns can also catch fire easily. Until now, it was hunting for wolves. It is now time for the wolves to start their hunt.

[Kokhanets] Do you mean that famous Chechen terrorism with which Russia has been intimidating nations?

[Dudayev] Nobody will be able to lower us to the level of terrorists, no matter how hard they might try to create for us the image of a Chechen mafia, bandits. If the Chechens had allowed themselves to perpetrate things similar to those of the Russian vandals, we would not have regarded ourselves as a worthy nation. I am particularly proud that there have been no such actions. However, we are forced to defend ourselves. Until the enemy feels misery in his own home, he will not comprehend the grief of others. It was Harry Truman who said: There is no policy, no ideology, no diplomacy, no laws, and no jurisdiction in the world in terms of which one can speak with Russia. It only understands the law of brute physical force.

It has even taken the form of cynical sacrilege. Children in neighboring Stavropol Kray collect presents for "the gallant Russian soldiers": embroidery, drawings, and poems about those who kill children of their age. This is truly frightening! Russian soldiers, with their high-precision weapons, destroy boarding schools, schools, and maternity homes: At present, there is not a single school and not a single hospital left—everything has been razed—and at the same time, Russian pedagogues teach schoolchildren the "humanitarian attitude": to give presents to murderers. They also scare them with "Dudayev's bandits." What about these "bandits"? They took a few soldiers prisoner. One had fired 1,732 rounds with his machine gun and another 4,321 rounds. We asked whether they had known where they had been aiming. "Yes, we did," they said, "at the population—the Chechens." "You felt they you could kill civilians?" "Those were our orders...." What did the Chechen bandits do to them? Have them torn to pieces? It is a sin, in accordance with Chechen law, to raise one's hand against prisoners of war. Defenseless people are spared. They are given food and cigarettes.

[Kokhanets] While meeting many Chechens here, mothers who have lost their children, and refugees who barely escaped from their burning homes with nothing but light clothing on, I noticed that they really harbor no hate for the Russian people. Tell me, did I just simply come across such soft- hearted interlocutors or is bitterness generally not characteristic of your people?

[Dudayev] Bitterness is not among the genetic features of the Chechens. They may hate concrete murderers, but not the entire nation. The Chechens would feel sorry for the "poor Russian soldiers" who are sent to war against their will and would sympathize with their mothers, who cry as they look for their sons among the POWs. Our mothers do not even cry when they bury their children. Hearts turn to stone with grief and mountain women do not feel it dignified to shed tears.

[Kokhanets] However, every nation has its share of scoundrels. Chechnya is no exception. What is worse for you, Russia's military might or your own scoundrels?

[Dudayev] You know that not a single nation is without its scoundrels (in the Soviet Union, the training of such "cadres" was done on a conveyor-belt basis). Take your nation or ours. I have given much thought to this breed of people. In Kyrgyz literature, there appears the notion "mankurt." Bulgakov [writer] created the image of Sharikov [in "The Dog's Heart"]. I would call this breed "bedbugs." What is their principle? It is the absence of principles. For them, fatherland, nation, mother, and freedom are empty or trite notions. We do not have too many "bedbugs," but they do exist. One can follow their pro-Moscow leanings.

[Kokhanets] What types of weapons is Russia using, according to your evidence?

[Dudayev] There is not a single type of weapon or military hardware, from sea-based troops to military space forces, that would not be deployed against Chechnya. Moreover, nobody divides people into Chechens and non-Chechens. Members of over 100 nations who have lived in Chechnya are targets for the "gallant" Russian pilots. Missiles are unleashed at churches, cathedrals, synagogues, and mosques alike. It makes no difference. Carpet bombing. Weapons that are banned everywhere in the world. "Scorched earth" tactics. Anything goes when Russia needs to disarm Dudayev's "bandit formations." Well, according to our information, they have put all the citizens of Ichkeria into the category of bandit formations. We got a "trophy" (he shows it—author): documents, signed by Chernomyrdin, on a new deportation of those Chechens who remain alive (if there are any) to five Russian oblasts.

[Kokhanets] Tell me, can Russian tanks make their way into the mountains?

[Dudayev] We will be happy to receive them here, for we need tanks. Incidentally, our 12-year-old boys have been cracking the famous T-80 and T-81 like nuts, although they were considered a miracle of Russian military technology: They found a vulnerable spot in them (so far, this is a military secret, I will tell about it when the war is over)—and no wonder.

[Kokhanets] What are your estimates of the losses sustained by the Russian Army?

[Dudayev] They are so huge that I am afraid to give a concrete figure. It is hardly known in Russia itself. I know for sure that it is more than 30,000. I state this with

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full responsibility: Bodies of Russian soldiers in containers are being dropped by aircraft into the Caspian Sea, acid lakes, and mountain canyons, and then those places are "ironed" with bombs. The present Russian leadership does not value the lives of their soldiers. It seems to me that they do not know what to do with their army and are deliberately destroying the soldiers physically. At a meeting between our elders and Chernomyrdin's representatives, we proposed: Take your army away and let us start peace talks. The answer was this: "Where are we to take it?" Well, they have found somewhere.

Hundreds of bodies were lying abandoned in the streets of Groznyy. Our Chief of Staff General Maskhadov offered [Russian] General Babichev: Let us stop this massacre and take away the bodies: We guarantee that there will not be a single shot from our side. Again, the answer was in typically Russian style: "If they bother you, you take them away!" Lots of inexperienced boys from the autumn call-up were brought here to be slaughtered—minelaying units covered them... in the rear.

Their top brass, tasked with "establishing constitutional order," seem to be concerned with one thing only: to acquire the rank of marauding general: Aircraft are en route to Russia loaded with goods looted in Chechnya; they do not even balk at taking used furniture. As for the soldiers.... Russian mothers will give birth to new ones. There will never be a shortage of cannon fodder.

[Kokhanets] Do you believe in victory?

[Dudayev] If I had the slightest doubt, I would not be at the head of my people's struggle for freedom.

[Kokhanets] However, war is a cruel affair. You yourself are saying that the Russian Army uses "scorched-earth" tactics. Even after a victory, it is difficult to rise to one's feet: The destroyed economic production potential and great human losses....

[Dudayev] The aggressor has left not a single blade of grass from our economic potential. As I traveled through the territory and studied the situation, I noticed that even high-voltage transmission pylons had been mowed down, like sheaves, with high- precision weapons. On just a single stretch, which is barely accessible, 27 pylons were destroyed. Precision weapons are extremely expensive, much more expensive than the "target." They do not spare their own huge costs to uproot the economy here. Vandals... However, we are tenacious people. It will be difficult for Russia to rebuild its economy after the war, because slave labor from colonized nations is unproductive. We will be able to replenish our economic losses within just a few months, because we will work on our free land. We will work with faith in Allah's mercy. He did not abandon us on the days of battles and will not abandon us in the time of peace.

[Kokhanets] Some people characterize this war as a struggle between Christianity and Islam.

[Dudayev] Nonsense. The aggressor does not have the army of Christ: It is an obscure military mass, ready to kill, burn, and rape without any Faith [upper case as published]. Anyway, you yourself can see here how "Orthodox" Russia adheres to the commandments of the Christian faith.

I thank your [Ukrainian] people for the humanitarian assistance rendered to our refugees and for your compassion for our grief. We do not need anything else, although I know that "Ostankino" has spread myths about "hordes of Ukrainian militants in Chechnya." Myths remain myths. We do not need assistance in the form of weapons or volunteers. We will be able to deal with the aggressor on our own.

I wish Ukraine to become a strong power with a clear position. Do everything to achieve this goal; thereby you will help all those nations that believe in your and their own future.

[Kokhanets] P.S. When I was saying goodbye to Dzhokhar Dudayev, the bombers in the night sky were no longer heard. Instead, a reconnaissance aircraft circled somewhere high above us. The all-seeing chaps in Stepashin's department may have been collecting more "strategic data": What General Dudayev had offered his guests for supper.

Groznyy Said Returning to Normal

LD2804114095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1025 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 28 (Interfax)—The situation in Groznyy is going back to normal and the population of Groznyy stands at 250,000 now that more refugees have returned to the Chechen capital, the head of the information team of the federal commission on the Chechen reconstruction and an adviser to First Deputy Prime-Minister Oleg Soskovets Yuriy Mikhaylov told Interfax.

As of April 28, the Groznyy bakeries produce 46 tonnes of bread a day. Eighty five shops are open to customers. They have been supplied with 16.3 billion rubles' worth of foodstuffs. Thirty nine of Groznyy's fifty eight schools, three hospitals and six out-patient clinics are functioning.

According to Mikhaylov, 111 kilometers of electricity lines and a 207-kilometer gas line have been restored. City buses run on 15 routes.

More than 15,000 hectares of land have been sown in Chechnya. A total of 10.4 billion rubles of retirement and other benefits and 2.7 billion rubles of the delayed salaries and wages have been paid to the citizens of the Chechen republic, Mikhaylov said.

Groznyy Meeting on Restoring Economy

LD2804143095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1358 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 28 Apr—The press service of the Russian Government issued the following report today:

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"According to the mobile information center, a joint session of the government of national rebirth and the state commission for the restoration of the economy and the social sphere in the Chechen Republic was held in Groznyy today. The following questions were examined at the session: on the work of the municipal economy for restoring life-support facilities to the city of Groznyy; on work to counter an epidemic and to provide the people in the Chechen Republic with medical services; on the progress of the spring sowing campaign; and also questions on the restoration and development of trading enterprises, public catering and providing the population with vital consumer goods.

"Salambek Khadzhiyev, the head of the government of national rebirth of the Chechen Republic, and Petr Surov, first deputy chairman of the state commission, chaired the session."

Use of Air Force, Artillery in Samashki Denied

LD2704165395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1509 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 27 (Interfax)—The reports on the federal troops' use of aviation and heavy artillery systems against the village Samashki in Chechnya are untrue, according to a press release published by the interim commission for overseeing citizens' constitutional rights and freedoms.

The commission chaired by Russian Justice Minister Valentin Kovalev made this conclusion "on the basis of a thorough examination of documents, landscape and polls among locals" as well as reports by commission members from the village.

At the same time, the press release stated that "the commission had locals' evidence of arsons, pillage and killings that did take place." "It proceeds from eyewitnesses' evidence that such actions were committed by armed people with black strips on their heads and dressed in a customized military uniform," according to the document.

The commission decided to submit all available materials to the Prosecutor General's Office to institute criminal proceedings on the case.

Criminal Proceedings Instituted

LD2704140695 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1226 GMT 27 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 27 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—Acting Prosecutor-General Aleksey Ilyushenko instituted criminal proceedings which he will keep under his personal control, on the fact of civilians being killed during the taking of the Chechen village of Samashki by federal troops. Yuriy Voyevoda, a member of the Duma's "Stabilnost" deputies group, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent this, referring to a talk between Aleksey Ilyushenko and representatives of the Duma commission for investigating the causes and circumstances of the development of the crisis in Chechnya.

Yuriy Voyevoda stressed that the commission members, after listening to the acting prosecutor-general, hope that now Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, Internal Affairs Minister Viktor Yerin, and Federal Intelligence Service Director Sergey Stepashin will come to a meeting of the commission.

According to the deputy, Aleksey Ilyushenko informed commission members that the prosecutor-general's office instituted a mass of criminal proceedings on events in Chechnya, from the appearance of false "Chechen letters of advice" to crimes committed in the course of military actions both by Dudayev's supporters and by federal troops.

The acting prosecutor-general also noted that he sanctioned the search for Dudayev and his arrest, because previously there was no such document in the prosecutor-general's office. In this connection Yuriy Voyevoda, in his turn, stressed that at one of the earlier meetings of the Duma commission, former prosecutor-general Valentin Stepankov asserted that he signed such a document on 7 November 1991.

Besides that, the deputy reported that during the meeting of the commission Aleksey Ilyushenko expressed serious concern that the amnesty for individuals who carried out illegal actions during the armed conflict in the North Caucasus, which might be approved by the Duma in May, will not attain its goal—the surrender of arms by Dudayev's supporters and the cessation of military actions in Chechnya.

The acting prosecutor-general believes that there are individuals among the militants, including criminals who have gathered in Chechnya, who have nothing to lose and who will not surrender their arms whatever amnesty is offered.

Zhirinovskiy Hopes for Border With Kaliningrad

LD2804073795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0552 GMT 28 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Biryukov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kaliningrad, 28 Apr—Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy promised to establish a common frontier between the westernmost region of Russia and the center should he be elected president of the country. Addressing the men of the Kaliningrad group of frontier troops, he stated that he would do that without bloodshed by cutting Lithuania off from energy carriers. After that, he said "it will voluntarily draw closer to the internationally recognized frontiers of Kaunas—Siauliai—Panevezys."

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Vladimir Zhirinovskiy visited Kaliningrad Region on Thursday [27 April] along with representatives of practically every State Duma faction. The legislators spent the day at frontier outposts and in the patrol escort brigade in Baltiysk and met the administration head and the chairman of the Region's duma.

In his address, Gennadiy Zyuganov, leader of Russia's communists, called for the restoration of the USSR and, mirroring Zhirinovskiy's tone, he proposed that the interests of the Russian-speaking population in the Baltic countries should be defended by tough economic measures.

Security Specialist Defends N. Caucasus Deployments

LD2704141495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1321 GMT 27 Apr 95

[By Anatoly Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW April 27 (Itar-Tass)—The group of troops in the North Caucasus does not upset the balance of forces and does not pose a threat to European security, Anton Surikov, Expert at the Centre for Military, Strategic and Technological Studies of the Institute of the United States and Canada of the Russian Academy of Sciences, told Itar-Tass in an exclusive interview on Thursday.

The Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE), which was signed in Paris on November 19, 1990, is being implemented in good faith, and Russia observes all points of accords about a stage-by-stage reduction in conventional arms and hardware, Surikov said.

However, his opinion is that individual provisions of the CFE Treaty have not only become obsolete but also entered into conflict with geopolitical and military realities.

The Treaty was worked out and signed under conditions of the opposition of major military-political blocs (the Warsaw Pact and NATO) and when the territory of the Soviet Union, where independent sovereign states have sprung up now, was viewed as flank areas, Surikov said.

The new geopolitical situation has resulted in a situation that units of Leningrad and North Caucasian military districts, the territories of which account for more than a half of the entire European part of Russia, may have not more than 700 tanks, 580 combat vehicles (infantry fighting vehicles, armoured personnel carriers), and 1,280 artillery systems.

Such a state of affairs runs counter to the basic provision of the CFE Treaty which envisages the principle of equality and consideration for the security interests of any signatory country.

As of now, the Treaty provisions about flank limitations are discriminatory to Russia, Surikov emphasises. This is illustrated by the situation in the Caucasian region where several foci of armed conflicts exist in proximity to Russia's borders. Besides, all states may deploy conventional arms on their territories as they see fit while Russia is not allowed to do that, Surikov said.

Such a position of Russia is emphasised by the leadership of NATO and the U.S. which, in the expert's view, does not promote the achievement of accords during consultations in Vienna on a revision of individual provisions of the CFE Treaty. A statement made by U.S. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns at a briefing on Wednesday about the danger of Treaty's being ripped apart is unfounded.

The expert believes that the temporary concentration of the combined Group of Federal forces in Chechnya for the period of the restoration of the constitutional order in this region of Russia poses no threat to European security or to the members of the North Atlantic Alliance.

The question of raising a combined-arms force in the North Caucasus is of porely theoretical nature and is being used by certain forces to fire the passions, the expert said.

N. Ossetia Accused of Hampering Refugees' Return

LD2604174195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1619 GMT 26 Apr 95

MOSCOW, April 26 (Interfax)—Ingushetia has accused North Ossetia of impeding Ingush refugees to return to the village Kurtat. According to a statement published by Ingushetia's permanent mission in Moscow Wednesday, a convoy of buses with 50 Ingush families was blocked and "stoned."

The refugees had to return to Ingushetia.

For his part, Ingush Presidential Press Secretary Ruslan Agasiyev described the situation in the Prigorodniy district as "sharply aggravated."

"North Ossetia's extremist-minded forces object to the repatriation of Ingush refugees even to those four villages that have been spoken about for already a year and a half. Their actions are virtually bind with the North Ossetian leadership's concept of a dosed return of refugees," he said in his statement available at Interfax [sentence as received].

According to the Ingush administration, over 60,000 Ingush refugees have been staying in Ingushetia since the autumn of 1992 when they fled from their homes as a result of armed clashes.

Russian, Ossetian Officials Discuss Refugees

LD2104203295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1332 GMT 21 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

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[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Vladikavkaz, 21 Apr—Akhsarbek Galazov, president of North Ossetia, and Vladimir Lozovoy, chairman of the provisional state committee of the Russian Federation for dealing with the consequences of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict, had a meeting today. They discussed questions relating to the process of stabilizing the situation in the zone of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict, the implementation of decrees of the Russian president, and resolutions of the Russian Federation Government on the return of refugees and forced resettlers to populated points in Prigorodnyy Rayon. [passage omitted]

A delegation of the International Organization for Migration is continuing to study the situation in the Caucasian region and the condition of refugees and forced resettlers. Members of the delegation had a meeting with Yuriy Biragov, chairman of the government of the Republic of North Ossetia, and Vladimir Lozovoy. They have also visited Prigorodnyy Rayon in North Ossetia and the town of Nazran. James Purcell, director-general of the International Organization for Migration, highly praised the efforts of North Ossetian leaders to achieve a settlement in the region and resolve the issue of refugees and forced resettlers.

Further on Explosion at Komi Gas Pipeline

Pipeline Resumes Operation

LD2804075995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0651 GMT 28 Apr 95

[By Igor Ivantsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW April 28 (Itar-Tass)—Gas was supplied today, at 08.00 in the morning [0400 GMT], to the repaired section of the Ukhta-Torzhok trunk gas pipeline, where an accident took place on Thursday [27 April], a spokesman for the Gazprom central dispatch told Itar-Tass.

According to his information, the repair operation was completed by the morning. The part of the pipeline, damaged by the explosion—about 44 metres—was replaced with a new one. Welding was finished and the damaged section was covered with earth. Soon the pipeline will start working in its normal regime.

Explosion Seen as Possible Sabotage

LD2704181995 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Fedor Vinogradov, deputy head of the Komi Republic's Federal Security Service department spoke today in an interview about the explosion of the trunk pipeline Ukhta-Torzkok, which happened at 02.14 hours today.

[Begin Vinogradov recording] We cannot eliminate a possibility of sabotage so far, and we will not stop working until we are fully convinced. Now we are checking this version in a way; that is, we are finding out now who could have been there at that time, which organizations could have been carrying out work there, who could have been there during the day or in the evening. We want to find eyewitnesses and talk to them.

The height of the flames was over 100 meters. The temperature was very high. It was as light as day in Ukhta. Of course, people here were somewhat concerned.

It took the fire two hours to begin calming down in the hotbed. The automatic system had switched itself on properly, and automatic valves had disconnected 40 km of this pipeline. The supplies of the gas had been stopped, and after all the gas remaining in the pipeline had burned out, one could come closer to the hotbed of the accident and examine it.

There was a crater about five meters deep and 15 meters in diameter in the place of the accident. [end recording]

Explosion Called 'Commonplace Event'

MM2704153995 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Valeriy Yakov: "Accident on Gas Pipeline Spotted From the Air"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Ukhta-Torzhok main gas pipeline ruptured with subsequent combustion of the gas near the settlement of Vodnoye at 0240 hours, 27 April. Most likely, only the members of the accident and rescue services and the operators of the gas pipeline would have known about this event had the blaze not been spotted by the crew of a Tokyo-bound passenger plane. [passage omitted]

According to information supplied by the Ministry for Emergency Situations Press Service, the accident near Ukhta was a commonplace event in no way different from a long string of similar occurrences. Gas and fuel pipelines rupture, catch fire, and pollute the environment virtually every day. And no one would have paid so much attention to the present fire had the world's press agencies not reported it. Around 20 meters of the gas pipeline were ruptured by the explosion and one-tenth of the surrounding forest has burned down—with estimated damage of 150 million rubles. There are no human casualties, because the accident occurred in a pretty sparsely populated area. However, more serious accidents with more significant consequences occur in Russia virtually every day. But nothing is said about them because both the press and society are sick and tired of hearing about endless tragedies and accidents. Attention is paid only to the most significant ones.

However, in the opinion of Emergency Situations Minister Sergey Shoygu, even the most minor accidents on gas and oil pipelines should be regarded as harbingers of doom. The state of the majority of pipelines in the country has reached a critical stage. Patching up endless

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ruptures is no longer a solution to the problem, if only because you cannot have pipelines made up of nothing but patches. The increase in the number of such accidents is advancing at a frightening rate and is becoming catastrophic. That is why attention should be paid to the problem of the condition of the pipelines right now, with no more talk about "routine" accidents, before a real tragedy occurs.

Official Describes Gas Fire

AU2704115395 Paris AFP in English 1134 GMT 27 Apr 95

[Report by Stephane Orjollet]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Moscow, April 27 (AFP)—An explosion at a compressor station triggered a huge blaze on a gas pipeline in the far north of Russia Thursday [27 April], officials said, contradicting earlier reports that the fire was started deliberately after the discovery of a leak. [passage omitted]

Earlier a spokesman at the ministry of emergencies said Russian technicians deliberately set fire to the section of pipeline overnight after discovering a leak at the facility. [passage omitted]

"It is nothing extraordinary—these are just technical problems," Anatoly Nesterov, an advisor to the Komi economy minister, told AFP.

The blaze was spotted by crew members aboard several Japan Airlines planes that flew over the region. They said the flames reached as high as 3,000 meters (10,000 feet) with smoke billowing up to 6,000 meters. A spokesman for the environmental organisation Greenpeace in Moscow voiced doubts about the official version of events.

"It seems strange to us to speak of a 'controlled fire,'" said Ivan Blokov of Greenpeace. "As usual the Russian authorities are minimising things and are the last to provide information."

Blokov said the situation appeared to have stabilised but the accident "illustrates the ecological risks posed by power installations."

He said 73 percent of Russian oil and gas pipelines were more than 10 years old and more than 10 percent had come on stream more than 35 years ago. [passage omitted]

Tatar President on Reforms, Ties With Russia

MM2804131195 Moscow TRUD in Russian 26 Apr 95 p 3

[Interview with President of Tatarstan Mintimer Shaymiyev by Nadezhda Nadezhdina and Yevgeniy Ukhov; date and place not given: "Mintimer Shaymiyev: 'We Are Adopting A Soft Approach to Entering the Market'"—first paragraph is introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mintimer Shaymiyev is 58 years old; he comes from a large peasant family. No one can now remember why his parents gave him the name Mintimer, which in translation from Tatar means "I am made of iron." But throughout the long period in which, after graduating from Kazan Agricultural Institute, Shaymiyev worked as an engineer, then as minister of land reclamation and water resources, deputy chairman and later chairman of the republic Council of Ministers, first secretary of the republic CPSU committee, and then chairman of the Supreme Soviet, no one in Tatarstan ever thought about the Russian meaning of his name. They began talking about "iron" Shaymiyev from the moment he was elected chairman of the republic Supreme Soviet. Because he adamantly defended Tatarstan's sovereignty, did not sign the "common" Federation Treaty, walked out of the Constitutional Conference, and concluded an unprecedented bilateral treaty with Moscow. But surely he is not only an "iron" man? No; he insists on a centrist rejection of radical nationalism and is capable of flexibility and compromise when the matter concerns the interests of the republic and the people living in it.... This was the starting point for our conversation.

[TRUD] Mintimer Sharipovich, what features of your character help most in the job of president?

[Shaymiyev] Being true to my word. And, of course, a love of people. These are not simply words. People say about some people: tiresome complainers.... But I am patient—after all, they are our people, not people from another planet. That means life is forcing them to appeal to us, and we have to help them. A man who has power should bear no ill will toward people; that, I believe, is the worst trait a leader can have....

[TRUD] And what about your "iron" will?

[Shaymiyev] An "iron" will is for business, not for people. When we were conducting the difficult negotiations with Moscow that lasted three years, character was needed. But also the ability to compromise. We decided that it was necessary to move on from the simple questions to the complex ones. Working groups toiled and Boris Yeltsin and I held talks. And by 15 February last year we were ready to sign. The word for "treaty" in Russian is etymologically linked to the word for "to negotiate." There can be no treaty without mutual concessions.

Yes, there are various differences between the Russian and the Tatar Constitutions, but we have recognized them on a mutual basis and avoided political confrontation, giving ourselves the time, and ensuring a calm environment, for further work and to reach a greater measure of accord. After all, the Russian Constitution also requires certain changes. The Chechen events showed that there are many processes which can be influenced neither by the State Duma nor by the Federation Council, even when it is a question of war and peace. That is why I say that our joint work must continue.

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[TRUD] How has the treaty affected the internal situation in Tatarstan?

[Shaymiyev] Highly favorably. Earlier we adopted a declaration on the state sovereignty of Tatarstan, then the Constitution, enshrining in it that both the Tatar and Russian languages are state languages, and that every citizen has the right to both Russian and Tatar citizenship. Before the treaty with Russia was signed, some people, primarily Russians, felt a certain unease. Everyone could see "hot spots" cropping up all over the place. Would we reach accord, would there not be some discrimination on grounds of nationality?—these questions were also very natural. I myself am a Tatar, but I understand very well the feelings of people of other nationalities. We stated very firmly at the time that sovereignty should not have a national hue. And the treaty put everything in its proper place.

Let us recall. The nationalist parties advocated the full independence of Tatarstan and secession from Russia. There were stormy rallies—extremists even burst into parliament. They pushed things to absurd lengths—banning mixed marriages. On the other hand, the "federalists" were opposed to sovereignty—let Tatarstan remain as it was, an autonomy without rights. I always said that both approaches were unacceptable to us. I have always been a centrist, because I am convinced that only a centrist can unite people in such a situation. In conditions in which the renewal of society is under way and national self-consciousness has grown, the centrist course has been vindicated. This was also confirmed by the recent elections to our State Council: Not a single deputy was elected from the extremist parties or movements. Victory was won by forces advocating support for the president's centrist course—an attitude of respect toward every nation and the free development of all peoples in the republic.

[TRUD] Do you consider that a treaty akin to the Russian-Tatar treaty is the master key which would help to organize relations between the regions and the center? How in general do you see the rational federal structure of Russia?

[Shaymiyev] No, I do not believe that the Tatarstan model is the only one possible. I would not liken the Russian Federation to any other federation—neither to the American federation, nor to the German federation. Our multiethnicity and our multifacetedness are a huge asset. Some people say that Russia needs to be restructured, divided into guberniyas, with equal rights for all. They apparently mean well. But no, such reformations would lead to no good. I would even put it more strongly: What, isn't one Chechnya enough? Surely, if the reforms are not working, it is not for want of a redrawing of the map? This is simply politicking, the ambitions of leaders.... Tatarstan will never agree to that. I have always firmly supported the integrity of the Russian Federation; we will never retreat from this position. But there should be no restructuring which ignores the lawful rights of the republics.

We concluded a bilateral agreement and are fulfilling our obligations under 12 intergovernmental agreements; we pay our taxes punctually and receive no subsidies, relying on our own budget. Surely that is not bad? But it is not a fixed standard. Relations with the center can be various. We have a bilateral agreement, but the majority of components signed the Federation Treaty. Whether it is good or bad is another matter. But they signed it—therefore they must observe it. It is annoying that the significance of this treaty has been greatly diminished. If we want the Federation to be really meaningful, the treaty must work. It was conceived as part of the Constitution, but today it turns out to be who-knows-what kind of addendum to it. We must realize that if the Federation Treaty becomes a meaningless sheet of paper, we could easily go down the old path of a unitary state.

And one more thing. The Federation Treaty was "launched" from above, being proposed to the Federation components. The center delegated to the components what it considered necessary. But if we want to build a democratic commonwealth, powers must be delegated from the bottom to the top. Seeing that history has opened up for us an opportunity to restructure society, why not do so democratically? The center must become attractive for the regions.

[TRUD] What does attractive mean?

[Shaymiyev] Carrying out a policy that draws people toward it. But at the moment the center is committing too many mistakes, both political and economic, and making many ill-considered decisions. You know, when we signed the treaty, it was as if a weight fell from our shoulders. Nevertheless, I said: "Boris Nikolayevich, Tatarstan will not stop at this." The president looked at me in surprise: "But we have just signed a treaty...." I explained: "If we want Russia to be strong, we must set about decentralizing the economy and give more rights to the localities."

The center even now wants to keep everything in its own hands. Thus in early 1992 a decision was made to dissolve the kolkhozes and sovkhozes. Moreover, virtually right before the spring work. They declare: Develop yourselves on a democratic basis, but they themselves dictate. Well okay, we will dissolve the kolkhozes. But what do we put in their place? Private farmers? Yes, everyone understands by now that personal interest is intrinsic to the individual, that it must be skillfully used. But after all, it is not because we are against reforms that we have few private farmers. It is simply because at the moment we do not have the right conditions for them—credits, machinery, servicing to go with it. It is well known that countrywide last year 40,000 private farms folded. But we did not rush things, and the 700 people who have started their own farms are holding on.

We have been scolded for carrying out reforms slowly. Yes, we are implementing them without haste. Tatarstan has its own, soft, as we say, approach to entering the market. We have endeavored to avoid drastic reductions

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in the standard of living and have not rushed to release all prices, to transform the kolkhozes, or to privatize. Have things become worse because of this? No. Our republic is one of the most stable and prosperous regions.

[TRUD] Where did you begin your reforms?

[Shaymiyev] It is not possible to extricate all sectors at once. We have neither the money nor the capacity. We decided that ensuring food supplies was the most important task. And we support agriculture through the budget. Moreover, the banks are not sitting on the money, the agricultural producers have actually received it—for mineral fertilizers, plant protection agents, road construction, gasification.... Thanks to this, for the third year running we are gathering record harvests and ensuring the growth of livestock production.

[TRUD] We have been round the stores and into the market. Vegetables are noticeably cheaper than in the center. There is plenty of cottage cheese and milk....

[Shaymiyev] And most importantly—it is of our own production. People buy it in the stores more readily than imported products. At the moment we are still subsidizing bread, milk, and meat. Soon we will stop even these subsidies. And we grow so many vegetables that sellers have themselves been forced to lower prices. The land and property in kolkhozes is shared out among their members. But the work continues to be mainly collective. A man can leave a farm, but does not do so, because he understands that he would find it difficult on his own. And those private farmers who have gone their own way are at the moment still helped by the collective farms. They conclude contracts with them, buy their products, and deliver them to the market, making a profit for themselves by doing so. We want farm leaders to become brokers between those who work on the land and the market. But everyone must determine for himself what form of organization of work suits him best: to set up a private farm on his own, to unite several farms together, or to remain in the collective farm. Or should we carry out decollectivization by force, just as we once carried out collectivization by force?

[TRUD] Nevertheless, people are beginning to feel the masters of their own fate?

[Shaymiyev] Yes, that is the main thing. Unfortunately, we have made plenty of blunders. But overall people are finally beginning to feel that they are individuals. I have been in power for a long time. If would appear that one or two things depended on me. But to be frank, in terms of my own self-esteem, what was it really like? A party member spent his whole life trembling before the party. He couldn't do this, that, or the other. And if his party card was taken away, he was nothing. We were all blinkered—blinded, as it were. I will say honestly that at one time I did not fully understand why they are so concerned about human rights in America, why Sakharov, for example, risked everything to fight for them. But now I have been through a lot and done a lot of rethinking. I meet with people and ask: Do you want things to be as they were before? They reply: no. After all, everyone has but one life. And he wants to live it properly, to feel himself free.

[TRUD] Free.... That's nice, of course. But he has children, a family, his wages are not paid, and he is destitute...

[Shaymiyev] That is indeed terrible. I agree. I share that pain. But we will have to go through these difficulties. I have already said: We have made many mistakes, there is no consistency in the way in which we carry out reforms, and the process of falling living standards is dragging on. We in Tatarstan are doing everything possible to make this period as short as possible. Until 1994 we regulated prices across the board; now we are releasing them gradually; we are trying to ensure that income is not lower than the subsistence minimum.

[TRUD] How?

[Shaymiyev] We have established that no one should receive pay of less than 110,000 rubles [R]. (The subsistence minimum in Tatarstan at the time was R108,000.) This means that the law obliges the employer to pay an employee not less than this sum. If you cannot pay this, resolve the problem another way: Reduce your work force or declare yourself bankrupt. If a man becomes unemployed, we will fix benefit for him—he will not be destitute. The Cabinet of Ministers adopted a decree on the payment of wages. It says that 30 percent of all funds coming into enterprises should be reserved for the prompt payment of wages.

We have introduced a targeted system of social protection. By decision of the Russian Government, child benefit (a beggarly sum!) is issued to all families, irrespective of the family's income. We, however, have set up a special institute of social problems, which categorizes families precisely according to income, and determines who should get what benefits. We give considerable help to those who are in great difficulty. The same thing will happen with rent. There is an indicator showing the ratio of the pay of the richest 10 percent to the pay of the lowest paid 10 percent. In Russia as a whole it is somewhere over a factor of 15, but in our republic it is a factor of nine. That is why there is also less social tension in the region and the situation is calmer.

Take also privatization. In addition to the Russia-wide voucher of R10,000, we have allocated to everyone a personal privatization deposit of R13,000—we worked out that there is more property in the republic. These deposits will participate on preferential terms in auctions for the sale of real estate. Of course, people will not see any return on this today, or perhaps even tomorrow. But in time the investments will get moving—we are working intensively on this—and income will follow. At the Kama Truck Plant they have already begun to receive dividends. And when there was a fire at the plant,

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shareholders gave up their income for the year in order to overcome the accident more quickly. So there is something worth striving for, isn't there?

[TRUD] Of course, your main interest is your work, the affairs of the republic. But all the same, to what do you devote your rare free time?

[Shaymiyev] I love to potter about on the land. Just what don't I grow on my three hundredths of a hectare—vegetables, fruit, berries. All according to the latest know-how. I think that my family is the first in the republic to eat new potatoes from its own plot.

I also love horses. I get this from my grandfather. We built a racecourse in Kazan and bought pedigree horses. In Tataria Sabantuy [traditional Tatar spring holiday] is not complete without horse racing. The whole city is at the racecourse on those days. And I am there too.

Tatarstan's New Parliament Discusses Organization

LD2604211095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1534 GMT 26 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Sorokin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kazan, 26 April—Today's session of Tatarstan's State Council, elections to which were held in March, started with a discussion of organizational issues. The permanent commissions were set up; there will be seven of them, half the number that there were in the former parliament. They include commissions for national and social issues, ecology, youth affairs, economic development, and reforms. They are mainly headed by the deputies who used to work in the Supreme Soviet.

There are 130 deputies in the new parliament; 35 of them are expected to work on a permanent basis.

The session will examine the Tatarstan president's budget message for this year. The issue "on Tatarstan's attitude to the war in Chechnya and armed conflicts in Russia and other CIS countries" was added to the agenda additionally.

On session's decision a daily parliamentary hour is being included in the local television programs. There will be no live relays from the sittings.

Pskov Governor Defies Yeltsin Edict on Prices

MK2504131095 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 25 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Vladislav Borodulin: "Regions' Price Policy. Pskov Finds Itself in Wake of Moscow Government Policy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Pskov Oblast administration head has issued a directive that introduces a nearly blanket regulation of retail prices on his territory. Thus, after Moscow, Pskov Oblast has become the next participant in the campaign of emphatic insubordination to Moscow, which not so long ago prohibited such price experiments.

The message of the directive signed by Pskov Governor Vladimir Tumanov is plain: state regulation of prices of more than 100 brands of goods and services is in effect. The argument for this step is artless in a provincial sort of way—"with the view of further strengthening of economic reforms and streamlining state prices and tariffs." KOMMERSANT-DAILY has written more than once that such actions by regional authorities directly contravene the edict signed by the president this past March "On Measures Streamlining State Regulation of Prices (Tariffs)." Equally, more than once did KOMMERSANT-DAILY predict that regional administrations would overtly and covertly sabotage it. Restraining prices artificially by regulating them is the backbone of many governors' economic policies.

The extent of gubernatorial insubordination, however, may put the grimmest forecasts to shame. The leader here, of course, is Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov. The directives he signed on changing the maximum trade surcharges on soap and milk sent the first signals that Boris Yeltsin's edict remained "unnoticed." The Moscow government initiative was backed and further developed in the country's Northwest. The Pskov Oblast government not only approved a list of concrete goods and services whose prices are subject to administrative control (like in Moscow) but it introduced price regulation of all goods "manufactured and consumed on oblast territory." But then Pskov Oblast has been reputed throughout the recent decade for being a land of undisturbed raykoms [Communist Party rayon committees], and such a decision by the oblast administration did not generally come as a surprise.

By the same token, one should not overestimate the economic consequences of the revival of socialism in one isolated oblast. Pskov is far from a federal-scale center of business activity, and it is up to its administration to figure out how to subsidize money-losing products. Thus the only thing it entails for Moscow is that the Finance Ministry will face demands for bigger subsidies to the region. The real problem, however, is the fact that it is becoming increasingly evident that the president's edict is ineffective and that the government is unable to enforce federal laws. The president's edict on liberalizing prices in general provides for no sanctions at all against administrations that violate it, while an attempt to solve this problem head on—by firing governors—is doomed to failure for obvious reasons.

Economic Issues

Yeltsin Lifts Restrictions on U.S. Banks

LD2704165695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1509 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 27 (FIA-Interfax)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a

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decree today on lifting the restrictions on the performance in Russia of the U.S. banks which had received the permission to carry out banking operations in the country before November 15, 1993.

The Russian president's press service said the decree had been issued in addition to the earlier signed presidential decree of June 10, 1994, on improving the performance of the Russian banking system. In accordance with this decree, foreign and joint banks which earlier received licenses of the Central Bank of Russia are allowed to work with Russian residents.

A total of 12 foreign and joint banks have received the licenses of the Central Bank for carrying out banking operations in Russia. Among these twelve banks are Credit Lyonnais, Bank of Austria, Societe-Generale-Vostok, Bank of China, BNP-Dresdner Bank, Credit Suisse, ABN-AMRO Bank, ING Bank and the U.S. Citibank and Chase Manhattan Bank.

However, the presidential decree of June 10, 1994, was applied only to those foreign banks which had begun operating in Russia before mid-November 1993. Thus, the decree was not applied to Chase Manhattan which has been working in Russia for more than 20 years.

Yeltsin Signs Edict To Support Energy Investment

LD2704165495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1509 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 27 (PIA-Interfax)—President Boris Yeltsin signed Thursday a decree on supporting priority investment projects financed under the Russian-American framework agreement on the oil and gas industry.

The decree relieves Russian oil and gas companies getting loans from the U.S. export-Import Bank from the compulsory sale of part of currency returns made by exporting oil and oil products.

A high-ranking Fuel and Energy Ministry spokesman told the Petroleum Information Agency that the decree amounts to launching lending programs of the Export-Import Bank in keeping with the July 1993 framework agreement with the Russian Central Bank, the Energy and Finance Ministries.

Earlier 11 Export-Import Bank projects in Russia totalling $1.4 billion were frozen when benefits to companies receiving credits were cancelled. Programs under the framework agreement involve such leading banks as Societe Generale, Citibank, Paribas, Chase Manhattan that offer loans for Export-Import Bank guarantees to purchase equipment for the reconstruction of Russian oil-extracting and processing facilities.

During a visit to Moscow in February 1995 a delegation of Export- Import Bank was told at leading Russian ministries and the Central Bank that they would promote the implementation of the framework agreement. According to the ministry spokesman, the April 27 presidential decree resulted from the joint efforts of the ministries and is likely to lead to the speedy use of the loans guaranteed by the Export-Import Bank.

Yeltsin Issues Decree on Stock Market Operations

LD2704165595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1609 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 27 (FIA-Interfax)—President Boris Yeltsin issued a decree Wednesday [26 April] on adjusting the operation of legal entities in the financial and stock markets to Russian legislation.

Within three months executive bodies are to take steps to transform legal entities operating in these markets without licences from the Central Bank or the Finance Ministry into investment institutions and offer them organizational and advisory assistance. After that all unlicensed operations must be stopped.

The president also invited the cabinet to decide about government support for the formation of non-government regional funds to help victims of economic crimes and guarantee conditions for the compensation of money losses.

Yeltsin gave orders to submit in a month's time a draft law to the Duma providing for the possibility of arresting the assets and property of legal entities for unlicensed activities in the financial or stock markets on actions from appropriate executive federal bodies.

The Central Bank is to charge for interest the means confiscated or arrested under court rulings.

Chernomyrdin: Economic 'Crisis' To End This Year

LD2704080095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0715 GMT 27 Apr 95

[By Yevgeniy Tkachenko and Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MAGNITOGORSK, April 27 (Itar-Tass)—Russian Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin today expressed confidence that the country would pull out of the economic crisis this year, provided it "abides by with the logic of a very tough budget".

Chernomyrdin said in his address to war and labor veterans in Magnitogorsk, the Urals, that the government was fully in control of the situation.

"We are beginning to apply in practice new principles of forming state purchases and new mechanisms to carry them out.

"In April, the Government began repaying debts to the workers in the defence sector. This year's amount (of these debts) is close to two trillion roubles. We have also

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found a solution to the problem of wages which worries the miners and machine-builders", the Prime Minister said.

Chernomyrdin further pointed out that the production slump in the industry has come to a halt for the first time in four years. The rate of decline slowed down by eight times as compared to 1992 and 1993. Magnitogorsk, in the first quarter of this year, even recorded the first signs, modest as they are, of production growth (1.4 percent).

The production crisis is no longer universal, many enterprises have already geared their output to effective demand and are actively looking for new markets to sell their products, the Prime Minister said.

Directive Approves Chechnya Protection Funding

MM2504124795 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Apr 95 First Edition p 3

[Russian Federation Government 15 April 1995 Directive No. 494]

[FBIS Translated Text] Agree with the proposal of the Russian Ministry of Finances on the allocation in 1995 to the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs for the maintenance of subunits for the protection of national economy establishments in the Chechen Republic 22.9 billion rubles from the Russian Federation Government reserve fund.

[Signed] Russian Federation Government Chairman V. Chernomyrdin

Deputy Minister on Funding Defense Sector

MM2804093695 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Apr 95 First Edition pp 1-2

[Interview with Russian Deputy Finance Minister Andrey Astakhov by unidentified ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA correspondent; date, place not given: "Defense Industry: Living Within One's Means. Government Intends To Provide Military-Industrial Complex With Financial Support"—first paragraph is introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Military reform and defense enterprises' problems have been the subject of discussion for several years now. How are the country's defense requirements being funded now? This was discussed during our correspondent's conversation with Andrey Andreyevich Astakhov, Russian deputy finance minister and leader of the Defense Complex Department.

[Astakhov] The law on the federal budget is the main official document governing defense industry funding. The current level of military spending is not just the result of a change of state approach to foreign policy. It is rather the logical result of the move away from the system of planned distribution to a market economy. In this situation the Finance Ministry's role has been considerably stepped up. Particularly at the stage where the federal budget is formulated and ratified. Moreover, the main provisions of Russian military doctrine, the need for real reform of the Russian Army, and other preconditions predetermined the possibility of a considerable reduction in military spending and the optimization of the structure of the aforesaid spending, which is fully "in line" with the state's tough financial and monetary-credit policy. Therefore during the work on the draft budget the Defense Ministry's requested funds were subjected to thorough analysis. Ultimately 27.7 percent of federal budget revenue in 1995 is being channeled into national defense. Let us point out that this is the first time that this spending has been fully revealed and the priorities have been highlighted insofar as procurements of arms and military hardware and military research and development work are concerned.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] Are there any changes to the system for funding defense orders in market conditions?

[Astakhov] The current system of funding the state defense order developed in the past. In simplified terms it looks like this: Budget funds are paid directly to the state customer—the Defense Ministry (other management organs). It distributes the funds among branches of troops, which in turn pay for the output and work performed. New forms of payment in our economy such as treasury bonds and tax exemptions are also being used along with traditional means of funding military expenditure.

This system is functional and effective on three main conditions. First, that the contracts concluded by state customers are rigidly linked with the budget funds allocated for this purpose. Second, that budget funds are allocted in full, and, third, that the delivery and targeted use of budget funds are monitored.

What is the actual situation? The 1994 state defense order approved in December 1993 amounted to more than double the appropriations scheduled for this purpose. Enterprises were informed of this order's indicators, which geared them to manufacture defense output that in cost terms did not have real funding to back it up.

Foreseeing the consequences of this situation (total "consumption" of their own and borrowed funds, worthless outlay, wage arrears for workers employed in defense production) the Finance Ministry was forced in February 1994 to repeatedly raise the question of bringing the defense order into line with the state's financial potential. The defense order was regrettably only adjusted in August: It was considerably reduced. As a result of the adjustment some of work and output ended up unclaimed by the customer during the reporting year.

Mindful of past negative experience, the Finance Ministry suggested that the 1995 order be drafted and submitted to the government on the basis of draft budget indicators. This would make it possible for enterprises to begin work in quantities that guaranteed payment. But by mid-April the materials necessary for this matter to be discussed and adopted had not emerged. Enterprises are

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still afraid of concluding contracts with customers, although they have been given that right.

Now let me say something about monitoring. In the Russian market economy its significance and effect on the system of funding cannot be underestimated. Let me point out that monitoring of the delivery and targeted use of budget funds allocated to pay for the defense order is still feeble on the part of both customers and supervisory bodies. Given the commercialization of banking activity and the fact that enterprises can have several payment accounts, there are a whole series of difficulties involved in monitoring the delivery of funds from the Defense Ministry to the people carrying out the orders. Let me first point out the imperfect nature of tax and banking legislation and the shortage of qualified cadres. Many professional specialists have gone off to commercial structures. The Finance Ministry's Audit Administration is also suffering as a result. And the supervisory department set up within the Defense Complex Department remains unstaffed.

I think that monitoring will improve with the move to implementing the federal budget via the Treasury (this work is due to be completed by the end of the year). We are also pinning some hopes on the work of the Comptroller's Office.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] Andrey Andreyevich, we should probably not ignore conversion. What is your opinion of the progress being made with it?

[Astakhov] In 1992-1994 around 1 trillion rubles [R] in repayable soft loans and budget funds were used to fund enterprise conversion programs. This made it possible to begin the reconfiguration of military production at 884 enterprises. Some 267 programs have been completed in full. In the past three years enterprises undergoing conversion via these sources of funding and their own resources have commissioned capacities producing civilian output worth around R4 trillion a year.

Analysis shows that every ruble invested in military conversion produces an average growth of R4 in civilian production. It is important for this new potential to be tapped in a market economy.

At the same time experience of conversion over these past few years has identified unviable areas and shortcomings in the mechanism and in the use of state funds. Some adjustments must be made. For instance, in 1995 only short-term, cheap programs that produce a rapid return and guarantee repayment of the funds will be provided with state support—it is set at R1.4 trillion in the federal budget. Long-term projects which involve a large outlay must be implemented within the framework of the investment process.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] In Western countries there is guaranteed financial support for base defense production units. Do we have that? And is it surviving in the crisis conditions?

[Astakhov] This kind of support does exist. Moreover, in crisis conditions it takes even more active and sometimes nontraditional forms. For instance, last year the Finance Ministry worked to grant enterprises tax exemptions on payments to the federal budget to settle state customers' debts. These exemptions were granted to 820 enterprises.

Here is another example. The government decided to exempt enterprises where defense output accounts for 15 percent of production or more from paying a fine for late payments to the federal budget and nonbudgetary funds. This concession was granted to over 700 enterprises and organizations.

In 1994 enterprises and scientific organizations undergoing conversion received federal budget subsidies to swell the consumption fund and for the upkeep of social installations, testing facilities, and unique equipment worth a total of R666 billion. Work has been carried out to write off defense enterprises' debts under centralized credits and loans issued in 1992-1994. Several programs of particular importance to the state are being implemented with guaranteed financial backing.

I would particularly like to point out a new element in the implementation of the federal budget. The most important kinds of arms and military hardware and avenues of research and development work have been included, under the adopted law, in protected sections of the budget and are to be fully funded.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] Nevertheless, there is plenty of talk about the state's debts to military-industrial complex enterprises.

[Astakhov] Yes, there is talk of federal budget arrears in respect of state defense order funding for 1994. The budget now envisages appropriations of R2.0 trillion for this purpose. A schedule for the repayment of these debts has been drawn up. It must be hoped that the budget commitments will be met. It is first intended to pay wages. The Defense Ministry has now received a targeted payment of R590 billion for this purpose.

To conclude our conversation, I would like to stress that the government understands the needs of defense industry personnel but, given the acute budget deficit, it is nonetheless necessary to live within our means.

Observer Discusses Wages Arrears Problems

MM2704123095 Moscow TRUD in Russian 27 Apr 95 p 2

[Article by political observer Vitaliy Golovachev: "Two Months Without Wages"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the space flight control center near Moscow the average wage by present yardsticks is simply miserly—less than 200,000 rubles [R]. When U.S. specialists from the center's counterpart in Houston come to the Russian space flight control center they are

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told everything and shown everything except for one "military secret"—wages. It is humiliating and shameful. If an American receiving over $2,500 were to learn that the labor of his counterpart, a leading specialist, is assessed at $44 he would perhaps feel uncomfortable on his colleague's behalf. But the trouble also is that even these pittances are being held up and are not paid for six to eight weeks (in early April flight control specialists received their money only for February).

A desperate situation has also taken shape at the Baykonur cosmodrome which, as we know, Russia rents from Kazakhstan. Teachers, Doctors, and workers in other professions at Baykonur have not received a kopek since January. The arrears are already R40 billion. And the federal budget's debt to the entire space sector has reached nearly R300 billion (this year alone). At many space plants and design bureaus people have not received their wages for two or three months.

In all as of 1 April 36,500 Russian enterprises and organizations were in arrears in paying wages to their workers. That is slightly fewer than in February and March but nonetheless 5,500 more than in January. If you look at how the volume of arrears has changed in rubles then the negative trends are manifested particularly clearly here: The sums of arrears are growing every month. And although in March the increase was relatively small—R43 billion—it remains a fact that the arrears are not declining but growing: As of 1 January they were R4.2 trillion, in early February they were R5,534 trillion, in March R5,644 trillion, and in early April R5,687 trillion....

The situation is worst of all in industry, where wages arrears are over R3 trillion. In construction, agriculture, and transport arrears as of 1 April had nonetheless declined, albeit not by much. (Although that does not make it any easier for the workers in every other agricultural enterprise and every third construction organization, where they have not seen the cashier for two months now). And in industry total arrears in February and March increased by R70 billion a month.

Some economists are saying that inflation is increasing faster than wages arrears so that the real "weight" of the arrears is decreasing, as it were. But that is not an entirely honest approach because it is precisely because of inflation that a person receives (if he does receive) partially devalued money two months late. Today's arrears of R5.7 trillion should be measured not in today's rubles but in January and February rubles when the money was actually not paid.

Who is to blame for the fact that over 4 million Russians do not receive their wages on time? In the recent past the brunt of criticism was directed at the federal government. And there was reason—one third of all arrears were from the federal budget. But the situation is changing now. We can only welcome the resolve of the government to settle its obligations in full. The federal budget has already settled accounts with many organizations of the sociocultural sphere. The Ministry of Finances is on schedule in issuing last year's arrears to the defense industry and the coal industry. That new arrears are mounting is another matter—that is borne out by the situation in the space sector, at Baykonur and a number of other sectors. The treasury is not giving money even for those expenses which were envisaged in the recently adopted budget. Perhaps they are going on the Chechen war or preparation for the victory celebration? However that may be the government has no reason to slide into debt again (and as far as I know it is at present engaged in resolving this problem).

But as a whole the lion's share of debts is accounted for not by the government but by clients and local budgets. In a number of cases some people (including the directors themselves of "recumbent" enterprises) are "minting" money on the quiet, taking the "cream" and leaving tens and hundreds of thousands of people without wages. And here is what is interesting: In such cases the trade unions are afraid to oppose the director or local administration (you cannot avoid trouble and in some places the director is simply "feeding" the trade union committee chairman) but they are tremendously enthusiastic in going to picket the government house in Moscow. here they fear nothing, no one will persecute them, but outwardly their "action" looks good and formidable: Well, they are issuing demands and ultimatums to the government itself.... But why picket if the Ministry of Finances has handed the money over to the sector or region? But it turns out that many trade union committees are not up to demanding a reply from the director.

And it is quite incomprehensible when money is demanded from the government for the payment of nonstate wages. What is the point? If the plant has failed to find its niche in the market then it must seek it and display inventiveness. For the insolvent use must be made of the mechanism of clearing up (normalizing) and in some cases the plant should be sold. They cannot endlessly beg for money from a kindly "uncle"—the state—while concealing their thriftlessness and lack of ability.

Meanwhile chronic wages arrears are now one of the strongest social irritants in society. Since the start of the year there have been strikes at 513 enterprises and organizations. That is more than the entire previous year! Some 163,000 people took part in the strikes and 669,000 man-days were lost. A serious alarm signal. Especially as, the Russian Federation State Committee for Statistics reports, in January through March there was the lowest correlation between monetary incomes and the minimum living wage in the past two years. In the first quarter 45 million Russians were living below the poverty line. Under these conditions delays in wages become a "fuse."

It is impossible to continue to live in debt. The government has begun to untangle the nonpayments and there should be a movement from the nonstate sector to meet

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it. In the very near future the finances of 1,600 enterprises with a state ownership share of over 25 percent will be cleared up. In all there are over 7,000 enterprises on the insolvency register. The hardest and most crucial stage of the reforms is coming—the stage of real deeds in the production sphere. While arrears are mounting (the total deferred arrears as of 1 March were R116 trillion) the reform will mark time and there will be nothing with which to issue wages. Normalization is needed not only for particular enterprises but for the entire economy.

Inflation Rate Slows With Arrival of Spring

MM2604100195 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Apr 95 First Edition p 2

[Report "based on Center for the Economic Situation figures": "The Week's Prices 17-23 April: Prices of Sneakers and Bicycles Increase in Spring"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Inflation has become sluggish and subsided now that spring has finally arrived. In the past week the overall inflation index stood at 101.7 percent,and 105.3 percent since the beginning of April. Admittedly, if you calculate from the beginning of the year it turns out that prices have managed to increase by a factor of 1.5 in this period.

Prices of basic foodstuffs have not increased more than 2 percent a week over the last three weeks. By and large, of the reported foods, over the last week the prices of fruit and canned fruit have increased by 3 percent while the prices of meals at public catering enterprises and certain kinds of groats, confectionery, and alcoholic beverages have increased by 2.2-2.8 percent. Prices of butter and margarine have not increased compared with last week's level. Prices of dairy produce, eggs, vegetable oil, and herring have increased by less than 1 percent.

As of 17 April the average cost of the basket of 19 most important foods stood at 164,000 rubles[R], an increase of 1.4 percent over the week, up 4.1 percent since the beginning of the month, and 50 percent since the beginning of the year.

The cost of the food basket in Moscow and St. Petersburg over the week increased by less than 1 percent totaling R198,000 and R179,000 respectively.

Over the past week prices of nonfood commodities increased by 1.8 percent and in general have increased by 5 percent since the beginning of the month. Prices of gasoline have increased rapidly, up 6.5 percent over the week (almost doubling since the beginning of the year). Prices of seasonal goods like bicycles (up 4.6 percent), denim pants, and sneakers (up 3.2-3.9 percent) saw above average increases in Russia. Prices of construction materials increased by 2.5 percent. Prices of refrigerators, furs, carpets, and gold jewelry remained virtually unchanged.

In Russia's economic regions prices of industrial commodities increased the most in the Far East region—up 2.4 percent. While prices increased least in the Central region, where the increase did not top 1.5 percent.

Prices of the same goods in various Russian cities still vary dramatically. Thus, coal prices last week differed by a factor of 583, while prices of firewood and peat briquettes differed by factors of 407 and 39 respectively, and the price discrepancies in respect of certain medicines ranged between 6- and 48-fold.

Last week the rate of increase of prices and tariffs for paid consumer services continued to outstrip those in respect of consumer goods. The dramatic increase of liquid gas tariffs—up 20 percent—was the main factor behind the increase of prices and tariffs of services in Russia as a whole. For instance, for residents of Yekaterinburg the monthly per capita charge for liquid gas increased by a factor of 171 and now stands at R2,400 instead of R14, while for residents of Petrozavodsk it increased by a factor of 2.4 to stand at R2,928 instead of R1,220. Furthermore, the overall increase in the price of services was affected by the considerable increase in the price of mains gas—up 12.7 percent (in Yekaterinburg again the charge increased by a factor of 60 from R14 to R840 per month per capita) and the cost of travel on city transport increased by 4.8-7.4 percent.

Disposable Income, Turnover Drop in First Quarter

MM2604155295 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 26 Apr 95 p 1

[BIZNES-TASS report: "Everything in Order. We Are Continuing the Cut"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Between January and March of this year the population's real disposable income fell by 4 percent compared with the same period last year, BIZNES-TASS was informed at the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy. As a result of a reduction in the population's effective demand, the volume of retail turnover fell by 10 percent in physical terms compared with the first quarter of 1994. A 3-percent increase was recorded a year ago compared with the period from January to March 1993.

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International Affairs

Minister Views Talks With Iran, Turkmenistan

WS2704132295 Kiev VSEUKRAINSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 21 Apr 95 p 5

[Interview with Industry Minister Anatoliy Holubchenko by Heorhiy Chornomorskyy; place and date not given: "The Minister Does Not Belong to Himself"—first paragraph is VSEUKRAINSKIYE VEDOMOSTI introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] A government delegation has returned to Kiev after holding tripartite negotiations with Iran and Turkmenistan. Ukrainian Industry Minister Anatoliy Holubchenko has answered questions from a VSEUKRAINSKIYE VEDOMOSTI correspondent.

[Holubchenko] Given the fact that the industry minister was selected to participate in the delegation, one can assume that economic issues were pretty high on the agenda of these negotiations. Is that correct?

[Chornomorskyy] Yes, that is correct. Economic issues were predominant. I headed a group in charge of issues concerning power engineering, metallurgical, and chemical industries. The scope of the problems that were discussed was quite broad. We are now examining a project for constructing a gas pipeline connecting Turkmenistan, Iran, and Europe. I believe that our country can become one of the cofounders of a consortium that could implement this project.

[Holubchenko] How? Does Ukraine have extra money? After all, we do not have hard currency.

[Chornomorskyy] Indeed, our country has no hard currency so far. But we do have the pipes and pump and stop fittings [perekachivayushchaya i zapornaya armatura]. Besides, is the scientific potential of Ukrainian scientists and the experience of Ukrainian construction workers, who successfully laid pipelines both above the arctic circle and in the burning deserts, now worthless? Whatever can be said, we are good partners and I expect very much from the next tripartite negotiations, which are scheduled for Ashgabat in two months.

[Holubchenko] Everything has become clear with the pipeline now. There were, however, also other issues that were discussed in Tehran. In what was Ukraine interested?

[Chornomorskyy] Iran is planning to build two electric power stations, which presents us with a large field of potential activities. I do not rule out that representatives of business circles from third countries will also want to participate in the construction of these facilities. There may even be a tender announced for this project. I believe that the projects we have developed will prove quite competitive. We should not write off the fact that Ukraine's explicitly neutral policy is welcomed by both the leadership of this Islamic state and its residents. In one word, I am optimistic about this issue.

[Holubchenko] Obviously, tripartite relations have advantages over bilateral ones. If this is true, what were the advantages of the Tehran summit?

[Chornomorskyy] This is not exactly so. Both bilateral and multilateral relations have their distinctive features. As for—as you put it—the "advantages," issues connected with mutual payments were discussed at the recent negotiations. As is known, Ukraine is running a debt with Turkmenistan for natural gas deliveries. Turkmenistan is a debtor to Iran, while the latter will have to pay hefty sums to Ukraine for its deliveries of metal and the work connected with construction of a whole range of facilities. Mutual clearance of payments will considerably reduce the time of financial operations, allow us to slash our debt to Turkmenistan, and ensure regular shipments of this precious energy source to Ukraine.

By the way, in Tehran the Iranians quite explicitly expressed their interest in holding more trilateral negotiations. It is envisaged that such talks should be attended by Ukraine and Kazakhstan. Hopefully, this summit will actually take place and allow our country to better utilize its metallurgical potential.

[Holubchenko] In conclusion, I would like to ask a question that is not directly related with the topic of our conversation, but is interesting to our readers, nonetheless. Do you not feel uncomfortable because of the fact that legally, you are not a minister but acting minister? Actually, the entire Cabinet of Ministers, too, seems to be just an acting cabinet.

[Chornomorskyy] Of course, I feel some discomfort, but I have no time for personal emotions. You know, the minister does not belong to himself. When you work, you think only about work, and all emotions disappear as a mirage. To tell you honestly, however, I would like more certainty. But you can do nothing about it—you can only wait until the law on power is adopted.

Relations With Russia Described as Normal

LD2704163895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1421 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BONN, April 27 (Interfax - Ukraine)—Ukrainian Parliament Speaker Oleksandr Moroz has described Kiev's relations with Russia as normal. In a speech to the meeting of CDU-CSU [Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union] representatives in Bonn on Wednesday [26 April] he said the establishment of good relations with Russia is "a foreign policy priority" of Kiev.

Moroz said his country is involved in CIS affairs and depends to a large extent on Russia, something "all sensible politicians must know."

Moroz said neighboring states were simply destined to improve relations with each other adding that both Russians and Ukrainians view a good relationship as a guarantee of their sovereignty along with social and economic stability.

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Kuchma Meets Havel. Signs Cooperation Agreement

LD2704183295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1718 GMT 27 Apr 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Presidents of Ukraine and Czechia Leonid Kuchma and Vaclav Havel met in Prague late on Wednesday [26 April] to sign an outline friendship and cooperation agreement between their countries.

Speaking afterwards, Havel said the incorporation of different countries into different blocs should not create the threat of a new Iron Curtain in Europe.

He reaffirmed that Czechia due to take presidency of the Council Europe would help towards Kiev's EC membership.

For his part, Kuchma said European security must be based equally on bilateral contacts and international organizations such as the OSCE or the Council of Europe.

On a possible NATO enlargement, he called for gradualism saying both Russian and Ukrainian interests must be taken into account.

In a speech to the meeting of Czech businessmen later in the day, the Ukrainian leader called on them to invest into the Ukrainian economy because "international credits cannot save us".

He said the present volume of bilateral trade ($240 million a year) fails to meet the two countries' real needs.

On the future of the Chernobyl nuclear power station, Kuchma said Kiev had decided to shut it down by the year 2000 because of growing international pressure.

But he said the most serious problem is the encasement of the 4th unit because "no serious expert could tell what is going on inside it or how long it will last".

Border Demarcation Talks With Belarus Resume

WS2804081595 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 0707 GMT 28 Apr 95

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As the Ukrainian Border Guard Troops' press service reported on Thursday, April 27, Ukrainian-Belarusian talks on border delimitation and demarcation resumed in Kiev on April 26. The Ukrainian delegation was led by Maj. Gen. A. Makarov, deputy chairman of the State Border Committee. The talks were meant to specify border-crossing form execution procedures and mapping of the Ukrainian-Belarusian state borderline. The talks are expected to last to April 28.

Ethnic Greeks Set Up Federation in Southern Region

WS2804081895 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 0707 GMT 28 Apr 95

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The South Ukrainian city of Mariupol was the venue of a constituent conference convened by Ukrainian societies of ethnic Greeks, which formed the Federation of Ukraine's Greek Societies, UKRINFORM's correspondent in Mariupol reported on Thursday, April 27. Commenting on the event Ms. Oleksandra Protsenko, chairwoman of the Mariupol city society of ethnic Greeks, who was elected the Federation's chairperson, said that the ethnic Greek movement in Ukraine was on the upsurge with many schools in Mariupol and in Ukraine in general having started teaching Greek. Ms. Protsenko referred to the local municipal and regional authorities' stance on the issue as very cooperative understanding and helpful.

Oil Firm Starts Test Drilling on Black Sea Shelf

LD2704164395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1421 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 27 (PIA-Interfax)—The Canadian OTM company has started test drilling on the oil fields of Aktash, situated on the Black Sea shelf of the Crimean peninsular, where recoverable oil reserves amount to 2 million tonnes, OTM President Ron Cormick reported to the Petroleum Information Agency [PIA] Thursday [27 April].

The PIA has learned, this two-stage program developed by the firm's experts provides for developing four fields on Ukraine's Black Sea shelf. In the company's estimates, the total volume of investments needed to implement this program totals 65 million Canadian dollars (about $47 million).

At the first stage OTM plans to start extracting oil on the Aktash field, it is to be put into operation in the second half of 1995. In addition, under the schedule, the firm will continue developing two earlier-drilled bore-holes on the Fontanovskoe oil and gas condensate field, their daily flow totals 340,000 cubic meters of gas and several dozen tonnes of condensate.

The second stage includes exploration on fields neighboring the Aktash ones. According to Ukrainian geologists, the recoverable reserves at these fields exceed 1 million tonnes of oil.

OTM enjoys the exclusive right to develop oil and gas fields on Crimea's shelf under the product-sharing agreement concluded between the Ukrainian State Surveying enterprise Krymgeologiya and the HHO Ltd firm, all of whose shares are held by OTM.

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National Affairs

Kuchma, Udovenko, Marchuk Respond to Kozyrev Statement

AU2704115095 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 26 Apr 95 p 6

[Report by Natalya Filipchuk: "Do Not Try To Scare Those Who Had Been Scared Before"]

[FBIS Translated Text] During the days of [Orthodox] Easter, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma spoke about his intention to attend the Victory Day festivities in Kiev, rather than in Moscow, having accounted for his decision with the following words: "If I fail to be with my people on the festive days, my people will resent this." On 9 May, in the afternoon, L. Kuchma will visit Moscow and lay a wreath at the grave of the unknown soldier.

It is possible that the Ukrainian president had made this decision long ago, but in view of the recent statement by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who finds it possible to resort to "direct armed force for protecting compatriots abroad," primarily meaning Crimean [Russian-speaking] residents, some people assessed L. Kuchma's actions as concealed protest.

On Monday [24 April], at a briefing at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ukraine's Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko also expressed his attitude toward the statement by the head of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry. He stressed that Russia, just like Ukraine, is a member of the United Nations. Consequently, all states must adhere to the UN Charter. That Charter rules out the use of force in tackling differences.

Acting Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk was more categorical in his assessments. He believes that such intimidations on the part of a nuclear power, which at a summit in Budapest signed a document guaranteeing Ukraine's security, must become a subject of scrutiny on the part of international structures.

Consequently, even though it is customary to forgive offenses during Easter holidays, it appears that Ukraine does not want to swallow this one. It also appears that the Ukrainian side does not consider this issue settled.

Deputies View U.S. Visit, Corruption

WS2704121595 Kiev VECHIRNIY KYYIV in Ukrainian 13 Apr 95 p 1

[Interview with Anatoliy Yermak, deputy chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Council Commission for Combating Organized Crime and Corruption, and Mykhaylo Ratushnyy member of the commission, by unidentified VECHIRNIY KYYIV reporter; place and date not given: "People's Deputies Found a Trace of Ukrainian Mafia in the United States"—first paragraph is VECHIRNIY KYYIV introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] A group of deputies, members of the Supreme Council Commission for Combating Organized Crime and Corruption, headed by Commission Chairman Hryhoriy Omelchenko paid a two-week visit to the United States. The lawmakers participated in the drafting of an agreement on cooperation between law enforcement agencies from Ukraine and the United States, including extradition of criminals. The definitive fate of the agreement will be decided by the two countries' presidents during their meeting scheduled for May. Commission Deputy Chairman Anatoliy Yermak and Commission member Mykhaylo Ratushnyy spoke to our parliamentary correspondent about their working visit in an exclusive interview.

[Yermak] At the operational level, Ukrainian and U.S. law enforcement agencies are already maintaining contacts and exchanging information. However, a special international agreement is needed to use such materials in court, so that criminals do not flee from Ukraine to the United States, and the opposite way to avoid responsibility, as well as to make it possible to impound illegally transferred money, and return it, so to speak, to the homeland. Thus, we drafted a preliminary agreement.

We were interested in the FBI's operations. The FBI's achievements may serve as an example for us. Incidentally, the FBI does not deal with all cases, unlike our Police, which is overworked. This institution has its specific area—organized crime and, to a certain degree, corruption. Not all Americans openly admit that corruption exists in the United States. We met people there who believe that corruption is uncharacteristic of the United States. We would reply that we had once believed that there had been no prostitution or drug addiction in Ukraine, but we can now see the results of this. Still, U.S. experts admit that corruption exists among U.S. state officials as well.

We brought with us many documents, which will be helpful in providing a legal basis for the operations of our National Bureau of Investigation—or, perhaps, this subdepartment will have another name. However, the name is not what really matters. The primary issue is to set up this subdepartment to investigate cases involving corruption and organized crime among the top echelons of state administration.

It must be said that the Americans are as interested as we are in cooperating with our law enforcement agencies, and in signing the international agreement. They even unexpectedly postponed our departure for a week. Had a critical situation developed in the Supreme Council, however, there is no doubt that we would have returned immediately. We knew about developments in Ukraine: We followed UKRINFORM reports, and learned about developments from our Embassy and Consulate, and from the Ukrainian community. On a few occasions, we telephoned Kiev to find out about acute issues.

We certainly regret that we did not attend the Presidium to hear its report. I personally, however, did not discover

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America in learning that Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz is an individual accepting indiscriminate interpretations of facts. Still, it was my first visit to America, and I discovered certain things.... Moroz's speech once more confirmed that he is ready to call white things black and vice versa, to gratify his narrow party positions. The truth will become obvious to everyone anyway, since there is only one truth. Therefore, there is no "Kiev truth" or "Vinnytsya truth," unless these words refer to newspaper names. I would also put in quotes the words "socialist truth" and "communist truth," because there has always been a big lie hidden behind all these truths. And I believe that the final word in establishing the truth will belong to investigators and the courts, and not to the so-called "National Television," which, while using this wonderful logo, is only presenting Oleksandr Moroz's stance for some reason, for which it would be justifiable to rename it as "Oleksandr Moroz Television."

When Hryhoriy Omelchenko and I were interviewed by "National Television," its manager Oleksandr Kuchmenko said that the tape had to be sent to the Prosecutor General's Office to assess whether our interview conformed with reality. Who gave him the right to decide to impose censorship on an appearance by a people's deputy? Any people's deputy is responsible for his or her words. But if there is such a principle in "National Television," then why did Kuchmenko not come to our commission to report what Moroz or [Supreme Council Deputy Chairman] Tkachenko said in their interviews? Why, after interviewing us, did he suddenly say that he would go to Moroz or Tkachenko to show them our tape, and let them present their opinions and comments about it?

The interesting point is who finances "National Television." If it is financed by the Supreme Council, it will be worth conducting an investigation. I cannot say who finances it. Still, the fact is that Kuchmenko, gratifying narrow interests, presents to the viewers only one position, which, in my opinion, does not conform to reality at all, despite the fact that the reporter who interviewed us said that "National Television" presents all viewpoints on various issues. However, the issues presenting the viewpoints of the two people's deputies concerned the activities of the "Land and People" company, and a number of commercial organizations, which received huge loans, including the "Okhrytskyy" loan, as well as a loan granted to the "Trud" engineering center; they also concerned Bozhenar [Moroz's adviser], who was finally arrested, and the activities of the commercial organizations belonging to the "Yalta Stroy" share holding company. And Presidium members, including Moroz, Tkachenko, Dyomin, and Taranov, were involved in these activities.

In the United States, it is the freedom of speech which allows citizens to draw correct conclusions. There are many media in this country. And a considerable part of the media is actually independent. The independent press sheds light on all social events. It forms the Americans' opinions.

Additionally, the moral criterion is very important there. The media should discuss someone's immoral deed, particularly if this individual is to be dismissed, no matter how important an office this individual occupies. This should be done even if the deed is not a crime, and no criminal charges have been brought against the individual. There exists the following principle: An immoral person has no right to hold an important state office. This is the norm.

In Ukraine, although criminal cases have been opened, people who have discredited themselves are pretending that nothing has happened, even though, according to our current law regulating the activities of state officials, they should have been dismissed. This law is inefficient in our country. I do not how they dare to call white things black while looking people in their faces from television screens or in parliament.

I believe that this was the last chance for Moroz, Tkachenko, and Dyomin to step down. That would have been the fair thing to do. This was their only option.

We are not going to accept the fact that people who discredited themselves are being appointed to state offices.

We will bring an end to criminal cases. Anyone who has violated the law will be held liable. There must be one law for everybody in Ukraine. "Land and People" has caused enormous losses to the state, and their $70-million loan has not been repaid—for this, Tkachenko, as director of this organization, should be held liable. If Tkachenko was grossly interfering in the course of the investigation, the Prosecutor General's Office should have examined the issue, and should have made a decision. Concerning this matter, our commission sent its decision to the office over a month ago.

And finally, another small comment. Undoubtedly, we used the U.S. visit to prepare materials, according to which our commission made a decision to send documents to the Prosecutor General's Office, which has opened criminal cases. We found a number of traces leading to those tycoons, against whom criminal charges have already been brought, as well as to those against whom such charges have not yet been brought.

[Ratushnyy] The drafting of the agreement between Ukraine and the United States, which envisages extradition of criminals, was actually the primary task of our group. It is interesting that people who have stolen money in Ukraine, and are now laundering it in the United States have become a great problem for the Americans. This dirty money is beginning to have an affect not only on the U.S. economy, but even the authorities, or, at least, certain attempts are being made to do so.

One of the officials said that the Italian Mafia, throughout its 60-year existence, has not achieved the trick invented by the new Mafia. The Italians have been stealing $1 million from one individual. It is clear that the person robbed of

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that million does everything possible to catch and convict the thief. The new Mafia, the so-called Russian Mafia, has invented something different—it is stealing $1 from 1 million different people. And there are no complaints.

It is clear that this is an urgent problem for U.S. law enforcement agencies. They pin their hopes on the agreement with Ukraine to help resolve this problem.

I am convinced that many people will be upset about the drafting of this agreement. The connection between Ukraine and the United States in the area of organized crime, so to say, is quite regular. We know that certain people who have left Ukraine are telephoning our country, and maintaining contacts. The U.S. services responsible for combating organized crime know about this as well.

We, by the way, were not the only ones to learn from their experience. I think that the Americans learned many helpful things about Ukraine too. Our draft bills on combating drug trafficking and corruption were highly assessed by U.S. experts.

Our visit lasted two weeks, because, as it was explained, the program for our trip was too full to be carried out over the initially planned period of time. By the second week, at least, I wanted to return to Ukraine.

I regret that I did not attend the Presidium report. According to reports from people's deputies, everything boiled down to a simple formality, which cannot be termed a Presidium report.

Was our trip successful? Undoubtedly, it was. I am convinced, however, that the results of our visit are prompting many circles to discredit our commission, its chairman, and the people's deputies who visited the United States. I am also convinced that certain details have come to light... Excuse my restraint, but we concluded a gentlemanly agreement not to reveal too much.... I will put it as follows: "They" are demonstrating who they really are. They are having a good time, and they do not conceal this. They have left visible traces, and this is good. I think that namely this area, which has often been devoid of substance, is now noticeably filled with many issues. They left clear, visible traces. Therefore, those who are here, and those who are there—their "cohorts"—have all been, and continue to be anxious. And it is only too obvious that they are "entangled" in international criminal organizations.

Navy Commander Proposes Nuclear-Free Black Sea

LD2704181595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1734 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April 27 (INTERFAX - Ukraine)—The commander of the Ukrainian navy Rear-Admiral Vladimir Bezkorovainy thinks it reasonable to declare the Black and Azov seas a nuclear-free zone, INTERFAX - Ukraine was told by the naval press service.

Speaking at an international seminar in Varna, Bulgaria Thursday [27 April] the commander also suggested signing an agreement banning the deployment of nuclear weapons on ships, aircraft and naval coastal facilities of Black Sea countries.

The rear-admiral thinks that another confidence-building measure in the region could be an agreement on the non-use of navies against each other and on the terms of conducting exercises in the sea.

Naval Forces Barred From VE Celebrations

WS2804111095 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0415 GMT 28 Apr 95

["Special to INTELNEWS" by Lilia Budzhurova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Simferopol, April 27—The Black Sea Fleet [BSF] command and the Sevastopol City Council have decided to bar Ukrainian Naval Forces from taking part in celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the victory in World War II.

The refusal was justified by the fact that the Ukrainian sailors swore allegiance to the people of Ukraine.

In his address to an April 25 historical conference, BSF Commander Adm. Eduard Baltin said that "the BSF command and many World War II veterans believe that it would be immoral if Ukrainian Naval Forces take part in celebrations of the great victory."

The Sevastopol newspaper FLAG RODINY responded to this statement in the following way: "The servicemen, having broken their oath, do not have a moral right to do military honor to those who perished in the battles for their Motherland. Such is the opinion of the majority of members of the hero city World War II veterans council."

"The plan of the (Victory Day) military parade was discussed privately by the BSF command and the city administration and does not envisage participation of Ukrainian Naval Forces, border guard troops, air defense troops and a National Guard battalion that are stationed in Sevastopol," said Ukrainian Naval Forces Deputy Commander, Sevastopol garrison chief Adm. Mykola Kostrov.

Moroz Discusses Crimea, Power Bill, Future

WS2804104595 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0415 GMT 28 Apr 95

[Interview with Supreme Council Speaker Oleksandr Moroz by Volodymyr Katzman; place and date not given: "Moroz—The Speaker Speaks Out"—first paragraph is INTELNEWS introduction]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Parliament Speaker Oleksandr Moroz is rapidly materializing as the most vocal and visible alternative to the policies of President Leonid Kuchma. From his vantage point as the leader of Ukraine's legislature and its leftist majority, he has been

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in the forefront of controversies involving the future distribution of power and wealth in the country. INTELNEWS correspondent Volodymyr Katzman met recently with Moroz and discussed his attitude toward Kuchma's Power Bill, the current situation in Crimea and where Ukraine is heading in the future.

[INTELNEWS] In the Crimean problem, three possible solutions stand out. First, to leave everything as it is. Second, to discharge the Crimean Parliament and form a new one on the basis of those deputies who signed the appeal to the Ukrainian Parliament. And third, to conduct new elections on the peninsula. Which way do you think is the most rational?

[Moroz] The most rational, in other words, the legal way is that the Crimean Parliament should continue to work on the Crimean Constitution. That is why the Ukrainian Parliament proposed in its statement that every Crimean deputy personally has to make a choice whether he will work on the legal ground of Ukraine or not. And it should not be like writing a personal application, as some insist. It should be resolved by a vote, not even necessarily by names.

[INTELNEWS] In your opinion, is it inexpedient to discharge the Crimean Parliament?

[Moroz] Right. My strategic purpose is to save the Crimean Parliament. We all will win if (the Crimean Parliament) works on the legal ground of Ukraine. Despite Crimean Parliament Speaker Sergey Tsekov's speech in the lower house of Russia's Parliament, which was, to put it mildly, tactless toward Ukraine, the Russian deputies showed much wisdom in not making any decisions. I think it will sober up some separatists. Moreover, we have met all the demands of Crimeans regarding the elections. I hope it will also become a stabilizing factor.

Besides, we are talking with Russia about this problem. Within recent days, we have had many meetings with Russian Parliament representatives. Deputy Speaker Oleh Diomin left for Moscow to discuss the problems of interstate cooperation on the parliamentary level.

[INTELNEWS] You supported the idea of creating a strict legislative chain of command. Has your position changed?

[Moroz] I never talked about a legislative chain of command. I talked about the chain of command of the entire government, about the structure of power, its functions. The power cannot be divided, because it has one source—the people, citizens of the state. People take power as something unified, where every branch bears responsibility for each function.

Today, we hear so often that the executive power does not have enough authority and that the legislative branch interferes in its functions. One should admit it happens sometimes. But does it prevent the executive from fulfilling its obligations? I do not understand how it can disturb it. What instruments do we have to interfere with, say, the situation in regions, the economy or some spheres of public life? We regulate only the legal framework, the activity of some entities and legal provisions for public life. Well, when we assess the Cabinet of Ministers' activity or discuss publicly our opinion toward one or another powerful official—this is quite another thing. The Constitution gives us this right. We use this right and we will use it, as in the whole world, though I should note that parliaments throughout the world have more rights and opportunities in this respect.

[INTELNEWS] What changes to the Power Bill would you propose?

[Moroz] The Power Bill has some essential gaps which did not go unnoticed by deputies. When it deals with the executive chain of command, it does not raise any difficulties. But when the executive branch wants to strengthen its structure at the expense of the legislature, that is no good. At any rate, it is not the most terrible thing. Bearing in mind the current difficult situation, we could agree to it, taking into consideration that the Power Bill is a temporary measure. But I will never agree with the idea of restricting the powers of the third branch, the judicial. The main task of the executive and legislative branches is to share their authority with the judiciary. It will then guarantee the democratic process in society and will form the branch that will be able to settle quarrels in society.

The proposed draft law provides that the Constitutional Court consists of representatives from the two branches, while some deputies and I support the idea of the Supreme Court being formed by representatives of all three branches of power. Moreover, it would be better if the functions of Parliament and presidential structures were minimal while selecting nominees to the Constitutional Court. I think lawyers should play the prior role, because they know the constitutional process better and are concrete professionals.

[INTELNEWS] Does Parliament as well as you feel any opposition to such an approach?

[Moroz] There are opponents, but they do not have good arguments. I think the president himself would agree with that.

There exists one more essential drawback in the bill. It creates a certain gap in power structures at the regional level. We keep repeating the notion of local self-government and, at the same time, we restrict the power of local authorities. We should not forget that life in our society is organized according to a certain scheme. We have a regional district structure and an oblast structure. The state delegated certain functions, and they have to realize these functions through their budgets by controlling the activities of certain structures. I do not mean interference by saying controlling.

It does not mean that we want to mothball the power system. We should develop it, give it new life. We cannot

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ignore reality. So, the bill should be further refined rather than used as an argument in a political struggle. I am sure we have much potential to find an understanding with the president.

[INTELNEWS] How would you explain the controversy surrounding the Power Bill?

[Moroz] It involves pure political aspects, rather than legal ones. But, as a member of the legislative body, I prefer not to comment on the problem. Different political organizations have expressed their concern about the bill. The authors of the draft law should consider it. Adopting a temporary law and temporary measures, we should take into account the fact that we do not live in our country temporarily. And this state of ours is not temporary either. We should see our state in its proper perspective.

Prosecutor's Office Declares Crimean Referendum Illegal

LD2704125795 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1215 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine protested the 25 April 1995 resolution of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea "On Holding a Crimea-Wide Referendum" because it contradicts the laws of Ukraine and therefore must be annulled. UNIAN was informed of this at the press service of the Prosecutor-General's Office of Ukraine.

The supervision body believes that submitting the question on confirmation of the Constitution of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea to a general referendum contradicts the law of Ukraine "On Ukraine-Wide and Local Referendums".

Besides, submitting the Constitution of Crimea, which was annulled by the Supreme Council of Ukraine, for confirmation at a Crimea-wide referendum contradicts the Constitution of Ukraine, in accordance with which Ukraine's laws have supremacy on the territory of Ukraine.

Kuchma, Supreme Council To Discuss Crimea Today

LD2704160895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1428 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, April 27 (Interfax - Ukraine)—Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma will hold consultations with Verkhovnya Rada (parliament) deputies Thursday [27 April] afternoon on the situation in Crimea. This was reported at Thursday's parliamentary session, chaired by its deputy speaker Oleksandr Tkachenko.

He announced that after 16:00 the Verkhovnya Rada would decide whether to put the Crimean issue up for debate or not.

The head of an interim parliamentary commission for studying the political and legal situation in Crimea, Yuriy Karmazin, has reported that his commission has drafted three variants of a parliamentary decision on Crimea. He did not specify what kind of options these were.

He told deputies that "the Crimean issue cannot be merely discarded, nor can it be examined without full preparation."

He also called for holding preliminary comprehensive consultations with the president and executive branch representatives.

Karmazin also spoke in favour of discussing the Crimean issue at a closed session.

Crimean Delegation Considers Resolutions Illegal

LD2704161395 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1215 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol—"The actions by employees of the state protection service directorate of Ukraine's main Ministry of Internal Affairs directorate in Crimea are illegal," Oleksiy Baksheyev, aide to the former president of Crimea on legal issues, said in an exclusive interview to UNIAN on 27 April. He said that during the evening of 26 April four employees of "Berkut" [special purpose militia] forced him to leave his office and escorted him from the Supreme Council building.

"In accordance with Ukrainian labor legislation, employees of the Crimean presidential service may remain at their workplace until 17 May. This is precisely two months after the Ukrainian Supreme Council's decision on abolishing the Crimean presidency was adopted," he noted.

"We are not going to implement the resolutions of the Supreme Council and instructions from the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Crimean Government's liquidation commission because we consider them to be illegal," he added.

The aide to the former president thinks that if Ukraine had a constitutional court then it would have taken a decision in favor of the former Crimean president. "The president of Crimea was elected by the people and only they may decide whether he should be the president or not," he stressed.

Tsekov: Not Surprised by Kiev Referendum Response

LD2704201395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1923 GMT 27 Apr 95

[By Lev Ryabchikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SIMFEROPOL, April 27 (Itar-Tass)—Speaker of the Crimean parliament Sergey Tsekov said on Thursday [27 April] that he was not

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surprised by Kiev's failure to respond instantly to the autonomy's decision to hold a constitutional referendum.

Tsekov told Tass that he knew at least a number of reasons why the Ukrainian parliament had postponed once again hearings of the Crimean issue.

The speaker believes that the Ukrainian lawmakers took into consideration the reaction of the world community to the Crimean developments.

First of all, according to him, in March, the world community neither condemned nor supported Kiev's decision to abolish the Crimean constitution, because it violated human rights of the peninsula residents.

Secondly, a big role was played by certain statements of the Russian leadership concerning the Crimean problem. "I believe, Kiev did not expect that we would so openly look for the support of the Russian Federation", Tsekov said.

According to Tsekov, the Ukrainan parliament will hardly ever vote to disband the Crimean legislature. "If it occurs, Ukraine would look ugly before the eyes of the world community. It is absolutely clear that such decision would punish not the parliament but the people of Crimea as it would doubt their right to elect deputies according to their will", he stressed.

Meanwhile, although Kiev lawmakers postponed the discussions, the Ukrainian public prosecutor's office issued a protest against the Crimean referendum. It said on Thursday that Crimea's decision to appeal to the people whether they agree with the restoration of the peninsular constitution, abolished by Kiev, contradicted the Ukrainian constitution and should be annulled.

Under the Ukrainian laws, a Crimean constitution shall be adopted by local legislature and approved by the parliament of Ukraine.

Parliament Discusses 'Crackdown' on Crimean Government

WS2804102695 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0415 GMT 28 Apr 95

[Report by Oksana Hasiuk: "Parliament Mulls Crimean Crackdown"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April 27—Ukraine's Parliament is considering a menu of measures aimed at cracking down on the troublesome government of the country's Autonomous Republic of Crimea. Yuriy Karmazin, head of an investigating committee that just returned from the area, told legislators on Thursday [27 April].

According to sources in the committee, the options with which the Rada [parliament] in Kiev will shortly be presented include abolition of the region's autonomous status and the full or partial dissolution of its Parliament.

Karmazin told deputies anxious over the political stalemate that has evolved since Crimean Parliament Speaker Sergey Tsekov's recent trip to Russia that one or more of the options would be presented for consideration following consultation with President Leonid Kuchma and other political leaders.

"We cannot make a decision on the Crimean issue without the agreement of the president and the government," Karmazin told Parliament Thursday morning.

Tsekov engendered the anger of many in Ukraine when he spoke to the Russian Duma earlier this month, criticizing the country's human rights record in Crimea and appealing for the imposition of Russian economic sanctions.

Crimea's legislature split in two following the speech, with 42 of its 98 members forming what they said was their own Parliament and appealing for the right to deal separately with the central government in Kiev.

Tatar Kurultay faction leader Refat Chubarov, who heads the breakaway Crimean Parliament, argued in favor of a partial dissolution of the regional legislature that would leave his group able to work things out with the Ukrainian government.

"The best decision would be to transfer authority from the current Crimean Parliament to the Parliament of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea," he said, referring to the name that the schismatic deputies have given their assembly.

"The legal mechanism for such action should be worked out in the Ukrainian Parliament," he added.

Many, however, are doubting the legality of such a move.

Nina Karpachova, who represents a Crimean district in the Kiev Parliament, was one of them. "This is a matter for the voters, whom to recognize," she argued.

Socialists May Join Campaign for Kuchma Resignation

LD2704183795 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1545 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kiev—The Socialist Party of Ukraine [SPU] is most likely to take part in an initiative by a number of left-wing political organizations to collect signatures demanding the resignation of Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, Oleksandr Bozhko, the first secretary of the SPU Kiev city committee, said in an interview with UNIAN on 27 April.

He did not rule out that the final decision to do so would be taken if the president of Ukraine called a referendum on confidence in the Supreme Council. [passage omitted]

The reason why the Socialists were keen to join in a campaign for the president's resignation, Bozhko said, was Kuchma's erroneous approach to reforms in society and failure to keep pre-election promises.

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Economic Issues

Public Opinion Survey on Economic Reform

MK2704134095 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Vladimir Skachko under the "Ukraine" rubric: "Kiev Residents Have Faith in Reforms, But Know Little About Them. Results of Public Opinion Surveys Reflect Also Uncertainty Prevailing in Power Structures"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A public opinion survey conducted among Kiev residents by the "Democratic Initiatives" center shows that people have not yet fully perceived the necessity of the reforms. According to the results, only 37 percent of respondents think that market-oriented reforms need to be accelerated; 30 percent are for reforms to be gradual; and 33 percent are either totally against reforms or have not yet determined their stance on this question. Only 14 percent of respondents believe that reforms will help Ukraine out of the crisis within the next two or three years; 51 percent are convinced that this will take 10 or more years; and 36 percent of respondents have no faith in reforms or have not determined their stance toward them. Answering the question whether they would be ready to accept economic hardships during the reform, 13 percent of respondents said that "they are ready for this, for any duration of time;" 29 percent could accept hardships, but only for one or two years; and 58 percent said that they are not prepared for any privations or had no definite stance in this regard. Such results were indirectly predetermined by the fact that 51 percent of respondents, according to "Democratic Initiatives," had only a vague idea about reform; 22 percent were sufficiently well informed; and 27 percent of respondents were completely ignorant of the ways of reforming the state and its economy in general.

The following survey data are indicative of the reform pace in Ukraine and the readiness of the population to participate: Some 75 percent of respondents have not used their privatization voucher yet, and 48 percent would like to sell it.

When asked how they intended to use their voucher, 16 percent of Kiev residents answered that they would like to invest it in any privatized enterprise; 11 percent wished to invest it in the enterprise where they or their relatives worked; 9 percent preferred to invest in an investment company; 7 percent wanted to buy land; and 10 percent intended to privatize their apartment. The remaining respondents regarded the investment of vouchers as a senseless matter or did not know what to do with them.

Kiev residents made contradictory judgments also regarding the consequences of the reform. Some 36 percent of respondents believe that unemployment rather than a growth in inflation is preferable for them; 18 percent gave preference to inflation on condition that full employment is provided; and 48 percent did not determine their stance in that regard. At the same time, 41 percent of respondents consider the threat of unemployment during reform quite realistic; 23 percent do not think so; and the rest are either already unemployed or do not wish to work themselves, due to various reasons, or else have not determined their stance.

Meanwhile, the results of this poll signify that the "market potential" of Kiev residents is encouraging enough. The majority of respondents are ready—in case of unemployment—to look for any job and to engage in any kind of activity that may bring profit. Some 78 percent of respondents were ready to work more intensively in order to earn more, and only 11 percent of respondents disagreed with this. Some 61 percent of respondents, to varying degree, were ready to work for a private employer, and only 32 percent were not prepared to do so. Private enterprise was viewed positively by 62 percent of respondents, while 28 percent showed a negative attitude, to varying degree. The replies of Kiev residents on this question, however, were also contradictory: Some 46 percent of respondents were ready to live a poorer life, but with acceptable living standards guaranteed; and only 38 percent were prepared to take a risk by investing money in new ventures in order to have a chance of becoming more wealthy.

Kiev Committed to Economic Reforms

LD2704164895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1537 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BONN, April 27 (Interfax-Ukraine)—Ukrainian deputies and President Leonid Kuchma are unanimous in a drive to implement economic reforms, Parliament Chairman Oleksandr Moroz said in Bonn on Wednesday [26 April].

But he also admitted to some differences including how and when to put them in place.

And yet, said Moroz, all political groups are unanimous about two main tasks - to build a powerful sovereign state and carry out economic reforms with social security nets provided for more vulnerable groups.

Official Claims Control Regained Over Money Circulation

WS2804081995 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 0707 GMT 28 Apr 95

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On Thursday, April 27, a two-day seminar opened in Kiev to focus on local self-government and banks interactions in financial-credit relations. The workshop is sponsored by the National Bank of Ukraine, Ukrainian Foundation for

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promotion and establishment of local and regional self-government, the Finance Ministry's Research Institute, and the Ukrainian Association of local and regional governments.

Speaking at the opening session NBU [National Bank of Ukraine] board vice-president Viktor Kravets warned local and regional administration officers against "cheap" credits, and said that thanks to aid from the World Bank and industrially developed nations Ukraine succeeded in regaining control over money circulation. Mr. Kravets stated the National Bank's major objective as the national monetary unit's stabilization and dispelled fears over NBU's alleged aid to place itself above state power to become "a state within the State". Ukraine's deputy minister of economics Volodymyr Naumenko spoke about some topical aspects of the National Program for Ukraine's economic and social development in 1995.

Figures on Market Structure Development Provided

WS2804082195 Lvov INFOBANK in English 0730 GMT 28 Apr 95

[From the "News Service" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV—Citing Myroslava Varenyk, Head of the Department for Market Infrastructure Development in the Ministry of the Economy, the City Telerate news agency informed that about 650 investment companies and funds, 500 trust funds, over 600 insurance companies, 250 auditing firms, and 228 commercial banks currently exist in Ukraine. During this period, 91 commodity exchanges were established, including 23 universal exchanges, 24 dealing in basic commodities and raw materials, 8 in agricultural inputs and products, 14 in commodities and stock, as well as 18 specialized exchanges. Trading is not very active so far, and the number of deals does not exceed 2.1 percent of the previously planned level. Real estate deals account for 71.2 percent of the total amount. According to the Ministry of the Economy, 113 tenders and auctions were held at the Ukrainian Stock Exchange (USE), and 376 deals were concluded for a total sum of KBV [karbovantsi] 174.8 billion. Security transactions at the USE amounted to 25 percent of the total number of deals. The Cabinet of Ministers is considering a draft law allowing enterprises to establish or cofound new commodity and stock exchanges, said Ms. Varenyk. Formerly, this right was granted solely to banks. According to Ms. Varenyk, 80,000 small businesses currently operate in Ukraine, including 3,000 joint ventures and 6,000 cooperatives. The authorities plan to stimulate the development of small business in 1995 and increase the market share of the private sector, especially for those enterprises that manufacture consumer goods and agricultural products.

Energy, Communications Antimonopoly Measures Vowed

WS2804082495 Lvov INFOBANK in English 0730 GMT 28 Apr 95

[From the "News Service" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV—On April 27, at a briefing of the Cabinet of Ministers, the head of the Antimonopoly Committee of Ukraine, Oleksandr Zavada, stressed that the Antimonopoly Committee will use means of forced division in such areas of the national economy as electro-energy and communication, where large structural units exist. He also reported that the Committee cannot come to an agreement on whether monopoly enterprises should be added to the list of non-privatizing enterprises.

Jan-Feb Trade Surplus With Non-CIS States

WS2804102595 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0415 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April 27—Ukraine had a trade surplus with non-Commonwealth of Independent States countries for the first two months of the year, but an overall foreign trade deficit, the Statistics Ministry reported recently.

The total volume of foreign trade (including bartered raw materials and goods) during the period equaled $2.592 billion. Exports were $1.120 billion, while imports totaled $1.471 billion. The trade deficit was $350 million.

The volume of trade with CIS countries equaled $1.482 billion, exports were $550.9 million and imports were $931.3 million. The trade deficit was $380.4 million.

The volume of trade with the non-CIS countries equaled $1.109 billion. Exports were $569.8 million and imports were $540 million. The trade surplus was $29.8 million.

Barter deals remain in great demand in export operations, which encourages the outflow of currency from Ukraine, the ministry reported.

People 'Forced' To Eat Contaminated Food

WS2704143195 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 15 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Mykola Petrushenko: "When Cheap Milk Should Not Be a Matter of Joy. Cows Are Being Sent To Graze. Due to the Authorities' Indifference, They Will Collect Delayed-Action Poison and Bring It to the Farmers' Table. Hostages of Chernobyl"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Poliskyy and Ivankivskyy Rayons in Kiev Oblast border with the 30-kilometer zone of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. A program for evacuating the population from contaminated villages in Poliskyy Rayon has never been carried out. People living in this area should eat only "clean" food.

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Such food does not exist there. Or more precisely, this region's population lacks money to buy it. This means, that there is only one option for them: To eat food grown in their own gardens and produced by themselves. This future also waits those who live in respectively clean villages.

To somehow reduce the concentration of radionuclides in vegetables, scientists recommend enriching the soil with mineral fertilizers and lime. This is not being done. Local farms have no possibility to buy fertilizers. The state, as everybody knows, has left everybody to cope with their problems on their own.

In this case, the talk is not even about production at collective farms. The talk is about garden plots providing food for people who suffered from the Chernobyl disaster. The owners of the gardens are not able to purchase fertilizers, because they have been robbed, to make it possible for the authorities and the new elite to thrive and gorge themselves on tropical fruit.

The victims, however, have been forced to eat only soup with radionuclides. Wise reformers, who think about redistributing land even as they sleep, want to reap profits from everything. They do not care about the rest, even about the protection of our nation's health.

As it is, it was rayons in Kiev, Zhytomyr, Rivne, and Volyn Oblasts which suffered most from the Chernobyl disaster. In these regions, cattle was traditionally grazed on meadows and pastures. These pastures survived the accident. In many places, the concentration of radionuclides exceeds admissible norms. Nevertheless, animals are still being sent to graze there.

In the spring, thousands of cows will graze there. In addition to milk, they will bring radionuclides to their farmers' table. Of course, it is impossible to close the pastures. Cows are essential to the population of contaminated villages. So, should they put up with the evil?

People who live in the contaminated areas are already trying to disregard the evil. They eat food grown in their gardens. They drink milk coming from cows grazing on contaminated pastures. They even sell this food at street markets. Fortunately, nobody inspects it. It is selling more quickly, because it is cheaper than food offered by stores. The authorities have turned a blind eye to everything. They feel more comfortable this way. The authorities, however, are responsible for the protection of the people's health. Therefore, if they exerted more efforts, there would be more order in our state.

This is only one aspect of the opportunities wasted by the authorities. According to scientists, polluted pastures can be decontaminated by enriching them with mineral fertilizers and plowing repeatedly.

To do that, naturally, certain plots of land should be singled out to make it possible for local residents to graze cows. Who has tried to do this? The authorities have been indifferent.

The area of private meadows and pastures is continuing to decrease. No decontamination is being conducted there. To keep a cow, which often feeds an entire family, a farmer lets it graze next to a road. Thus, lead and other hazardous elements add to the radionuclides.

Is there a way out? As long as our national wealth is plundered to make certain individuals and groups of people rich, citizens will not obtain any fertilizers or land for grazing. There are thus different ways out. The peasants can utilize swamps on which they have, and will continue to graze their cattle. The way of those who "graze" state policy [as published] leads to clean foreign products purchased for money stolen from the working people.

By the way, **food from Poliskyy Rayon in Kiev Oblast or villages adjacent to the Chernobyl plant is not sent to the dining rooms and buffets of the presidential administration, the Supreme Court, or the Cabinet of Ministers. Their food is delivered from clean regions at the taxpayers' expense. Would it not be more expedient to reduce expenditures on these deliveries, and use the saved money to purchase mineral fertilizers for Poliskyy Rayon?** Among others, excellent cream butter was once produced in this rayon, which certainly did not fall behind the famous batter from Vologda....

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Belarus

Chyhir: Minsk Seeks 'Neutral, Non-Nuclear State'

LD2704181495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1629 GMT 27 Apr 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Belarusian leadership seeks to build a neutral, non-nuclear state, Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir has said. He was speaking in Minsk at a conference on the 50th anniversary of the victory over Nazism.

Prime Minister Chyhir said that the foreign policy of Belarus was based on the principle of sovereign equality of states, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries and the inviolability of borders. He recalled that President Alyaksandr Lukashenka had repeatedly declared his commitment to democratic reform.

Prime Minister Chyhir described as complicated the political situation in Belarus on the eve of the parliamentary elections scheduled for May 14. At the same time he voiced the certainty that when a new parliament was elected and a referendum initiated by the president held, the Belarusian people would display their best qualities—calm, common sense and civic accord.

Prime Minister Chyhir hopes the economic situation would help achieve this, because the government had managed to stabilize the financial system and the exchange rate of the national currency and put in order the system of energy consumption.

France To Grant $80 Million To Modernize Energy Sector

WS2804090395 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0800 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A day's international conference on the problems of power engineering safety and energy dependence of the countries of Eastern and Central Europe was held in Paris, in the building of the French Parliament, with the participation of representatives of EU countries, the United States, Japan, and Canada. Belarus was represented by Alyaksandr Mikhalevich, director of the Institute for Power Engineering and a corresponding member of the Belarusian Academy of Sciences. According to him, the problem of power engineering safety in the countries of the former USSR is extremely topical for the French. One more Chernobyl, they say, and the progressive development of French power engineering will be over. As is generally known, over 80 percent of electricity in that country is produced at nuclear power plants. That is why the Department of Power Engineering and the Electricite de France Company organized the conference and expressed their readiness to immediately give $80 million for the modernization of Belarusian power engineering, if Belarus displays willingness for cooperation.

National Banks Losses Due to 'Risky Credit Policy'

WS2704143395 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1400 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Profits of Belarusian banks over the first quarter of this year totalled 326 billion rubles [R] at the beginning of April. According to official statistics, seven banks in the country, including such banks as Dukat, Belarusbank, and Vitkambank sustained losses to the total amount of R26.8 billion. Among the reasons for the losses experts name a too risky credit policy and the sharp increase of expenditure items in view of additional allocations to debt reserves.

Experts also talk of an unfavorable tendency when banks pay more for the use of interbank resources than they receive as interest for their extension. Experts' forecast for the state of the banking sector in the country does not give grounds for optimism mainly because of the artificial maintenance of the exchange rate of the Belarusian ruble.

Ministry on Safekeeping of Former Soviet Ammunition

WS2804092695 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0700 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Safe keeping of aviation and artillery weapons has been considered at a session of the Belarusian Defense Ministry Collegium. The drafted measures are aimed at providing necessary conditions for preserving ammunition, received as a legacy of the former Soviet Army.

Decisions on such issues as providing the Armed Forces with topographic and geodetic documentation, as well as the participation of Belarusian Army sportsmen in the First World Games of Servicemen—to be held this September in Rome—have also been adopted. Despite financial difficulties experienced by the Defense Ministry, sportsmen of the Belarusian Armed Forces will send 100 representatives to these games.

Minsk Officials Approve May Day Rally

WS2804091395 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0800 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Minsk City Executive Committee has authorized a mass meeting on the Independence Square in Minsk on 1 May to the Movement for Democracy, Social Progress and Justice. According to information received, the activities on the occasion of the Labor Day will be aimed to support the forthcoming national referendum on the statehood of the Russian language, on the revision of the national symbols, and on

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the integration with Russia. At the same time, as it was reported, the Minsk authorities did not allow the Free Trade Union to hold a mass meeting on the same square on 26 April under the motto "No More Chernobyls Inflicted on the People of Belarus." In the opinion of some observers, Minsk authorities—enjoying their right to authorize or to refuse various actions in the city—more and more frequently display their favor to organizations of communist persuasion.

Registration of Parliamentary Candidates Ends

LD2704181295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1629 GMT 27 Apr 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the parliamentary elections in Belarus on May 14 2,348 candidates will contest the 260 seats in the national legislature, the chairman of the central electoral commission Aleksandr Abramovich has said. He said that 176 citizens had been denied registration.

Abramovich said that 1,126 candidates had been nominated by 29 political parties and election alliances; 603 candidates were registered after collecting the required 500 signatures, 462 candidates were nominated by labor staffs and the rest, by organizations of veterans and military units.

Abramovich said that though the registration deadline had expired, the number of candidates might change: "Most probably it will reduce, because the leaders of a number of parties have filed about 20 requests saying they wish to recall their candidates for abusing party discipline".

Abramovich said that the problem of financing the parliamentary elections and the national referendum was about to be resolved. He said the Ministry of Finance had transferred to the central electoral commission's account 32.1 billion Belarussian rubles (about $2.8 million) to finance the elections and 4.7 billion rubles ($400,000) to hold the referendum.

Abramovich said that the central electoral commission and the Cabinet of Ministers had come to terms on the financial issue after parliament slashed the sum requested for the elections from 68 billion Belarussian rubles to 40.7 billion. The executive authorities have also undertaken to pay all the costs of equipping the polling stations and providing electoral commission staff with transport and means communications.

Moldova

Snegur Rules Out Union With Romania

LD2804054295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0214 GMT 28 Apr 95

[P[illegible] ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Varlamov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tokyo, 28 April—Moldova intends to join the Council of Europe - the consultative political organization of 23 countries of Europe - by June, the first CIS country to do so. Mircea Snegur, president of the Republic of Moldova, who met a NIHON KEIZAI correspondent in Chisinau, said this in an interview to the Japanese newspaper which was published today.

He said that Moldova had already sent delegations to attend Council of Europe sessions as observers on several occasions and had successfully undergone a number of checks by experts of this organization as to whether Moldovan democracy conformed to common democratic principles. "Council of Europe specialists came to the conclusion that all the necessary conditions exist in our country for it to join the Council of Europe", the newspaper quotes the president as saying.

Mircea Snegur also said that Moldova "will never unite with Romania". He said that although both neighbouring countries share a common language and culture, on the basis of which part of the national opposition favors their merging, Chisinau intends to preserve its independence, developing bilateral humanitarian and economic relations. The president thinks that relations between the United States and Canada should serve as the model for relations between Moldova and Romania.

Snegur Suggests Changing Language Name to Romanian

LD2704164495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1527 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CHISINAU, April 27 (Interfax)—Moldovan President Mircea Snegur suggested changing the name of his country's state language, Moldovan, to Romanian.

He told parliament that the country's constitution must be consistent with the scientific truth. Snegur said that since the adoption of the Constitution last July numerous scientists called for changing the name of the language.

This change, he said, was one of the main demands made by the Chisinau students and faculty in their month-long strike. Snegur justified the strike as a tool to protect the professional rights but the way it was staged it broke the legislation and turned into a political action because opposition leaders used the strikers' rallies to advance their views.

Even so, Snegur said, it is time discussions and political speculations around the name of the language, which has become a contentious issue, were ended. He emphasized that the problem has become purely political and acquired an international dimension.

Snegur said that change of the name would not imply that the Moldovan state will cease to exist.

Parliament took note of his address.

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In line with the constitution amendment procedure, a commission has been formed which will hold consultations and will submit its decision to full parliament within six months.

Parliament Protests Moscow Duma Resolution on 14th Army

AU2804112195 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 2000 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 27/4/1995—The Moldovan Parliament has regarded the Russian State Duma's resolution ("On Situation Around the 14th Army") as an unfriendly act towards Moldova.

The Moldovan parliamentarians passed a statement today in which they pointed out that the Duma's resolution contradicts the Moldovan-Russian accords on the [14th] Army withdrawal from Moldovan territory, and, in fact, signifies a direct support of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic.

The Moldovan document indicates that the resolution contradicts the principles of international law, UN, OSCE, and CIS documents, as well as the guarantees of the Russian leadership on the necessity to solve the problem of the Moldovan eastern areas by using solely peaceful, political means. "Such actions cannot be qualified otherwise, but as an interference into Moldova's internal affairs, as an overt support of separatist regimes outside the Russian Federation's territory," reads the statement.

Twelve of the 28 deputies of the Socialist Unity faction voted against passing the aforementioned statement. They motivated their decision by saying that "the document may damage bilateral Moldovan-Russian relations" and that "we should not hurry to pass the statement on the eve of the forthcoming holidays." [to mark World War II victory] They reminded that the resolution had not yet been signed by State Duma chairman Ivan Rybkin, who will be away from Moscow until 4 May, and insisted that by that time the resolution may suffer principal changes.

However, the majority of Moldovan parliamentarians considered the adoption of the statement as absolutely necessary. In particular, the oldest of them, 84-year-old Artem Lazarev of the Socialist Unity, called his colleagues to vote in favor of the document because "Russia persists in pursuing a senior-junior policy with respect to Moldova."

Luchinskiy Puzzled Over Russian Duma Statement on Dniester

LD2704185795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1629 GMT 27 Apr 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moldova's Parliament Chairman Petr Luchinskiy has voiced dismay over the decision on the 14th Army adopted by the Russian State Duma on Wednesday [26 April]. He told an Interfax interviewer that he was amazed by the fact that the document speaks of the Dniester Moldova republic, in view of the fact that the Russian leadership has repeatedly referred to Dniester as part and parcel of the Republic of Moldova.

"This decision can only serve to aggravate rather than normalize the situation in the region," Luchcinskiy stressed.

He announced that the Moldova parliament would soon review the situation and would come up with an official document to this effect.

INTERFAX IF note: The State Duma has adopted a resolution saying that the withdrawal of the 14th Army from Dniester would escalate tensions there. The lawmakers recommended the government to take all the necessary measures to ensure the effective functioning of the 14th Army. The president and government were asked to take additional political and economic measures to normalize the situation in the Dniestern Moldovan Republic. The resolution also says that the 14th Army "performs the most important function of stabilizing the situation in the region, preventing inter-ethnic conflicts and protecting the peaceful life of Dniester's multi-ethnic population".

Luchinskiy said the possibility of reforming the command of the 14th Army was an internal affair of Russia. However, he said that Moldova was worried about the risk of destabilization in that army and its involvement in political conflicts. This would be very undesirable, he said, because it may lead to the looting of military hardware and ammunition.

Luchinskiy said the Moldovan leadership regarded General Aleksandr Lebed as the most suitable candidate for the post of the 14th Army commander in the current situation. "Whatever is said about General Lebed, he is an excellent commander, there is order and discipline in his units and there is a guarantee that the army's equipment and other assets will not be plundered", Luchinskiy said.

The state secretary of the self-declared Dniestern republic Valeriy Litskay has said in an interview that irrespective of who commands the army, the position of the Dniestern authorities remained unchanged. It was formulated in the course of the referendum on the issue: The army must stay in Dniester as the chief safeguard of peace and security.

Defence Minister Pavel Grachev told journalists on Wednesday that General Lebed had been offered the post of the deputy commander of the Transbaykal Military District for combat training. Defence Minister Grachev said General Lebed had asked for time to consider the proposal.

Grachev said that a decision had been made to abolish the command of the 14th Army to replace it with a day-to-day management group with a staff of 80-90 members.

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Defence Minister Grachev did not rule out General Lebed might tender resignation in order to start a political career. At the same time he said that "as the Defence Minister I would like General Lebed to stay in the armed forces at least because he is my trainee. I supervised him all the way from cadet to 14th Army commander."

Meanwhile, General Lebed said that nobody had ever approached him with official proposals for a new post. Interviewed by Interfax on Thursday, he described as "lies" all rumors to that effect, including the claim he had been offered the post of deputy commander of the Transbaykal Military District.

Asked who was being untrue, General Lebed was curt: "The defence minister".

He also said he learned about the Defence Ministry's directive to reform the army from the press. He said that he had received no official notifications and no steps were being taken to effect the directive.

General Lebed refrained from comments on the State Duma's resolution on the 14th Army.

Lebed on Implications of Downgrading 14th Army

MK2704111095 Moscow OBSHCHAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 17 (93), 27 Apr - 3 May 95 (Signed to press 26 Apr) p 2

[Interview with Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed, 14th Army commander, by Yevgeniy Aleksandrov in the "Hello!" column: "Will Lebed Make Life Easier for Grachev?"—place, date not given; first paragraph is introduction]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A report has come in from the Russian Federation Defense Ministry about a reorganization of the 14th Army Headquarters and the removal of its commander. The latter for his part told representatives of news agencies that he has been left without work and will resign. OBSHCHAYA GAZETA's correspondent Yevgeniy Aleksandrov asked Lt. Gen. Aleksandr Lebed to comment on this statement. [passage omitted]

[Aleksandrov] Aleksandr Ivanovich, what problems will arise as a result of reorganizing the army command?

[Lebed] The army is a living, operating organism, whose head is being cut off in the hope that the remaining part will continue to move through reflex. After all, nothing has been done to implement any of the current agreements on withdrawing the army from the Dniester Region. Not a single issue has been resolved. Meanwhile officers and services, which are to execute this decision, are being downsized. The engineers department and the road service has been abolished. Equipment, people, and property need to be evacuated. Who will be doing this? The army headquarters should be the last to leave. But here it is the other way around. [passage omitted]

[Aleksandrov] Will you obey the order unconditionally, or do you have some other options?

[Lebed] I will resign, and let somebody else decide the question about the army withdrawal—without me.

[Aleksandrov] How will this decision affect the situation in the Dniester Region?

[Lebed] Very negatively. At present the situation here is balanced. This balance will be disturbed. Equipment and weapons will again start to be seized, unrest will resume, and a high alert status will have to be introduced. You must know that under a 15 February 1994 edict by the Dniester Region president, the equipment, weapons, ammunition, and movable and immovable property of the army were declared the property of the people of the Dniester Region.

[Aleksandrov] But the army is under Russia's jurisdiction?

[Lebed] They could not care less about this jurisdiction.

[Aleksandrov] What if the status of troops stationed on this territory changes?

[Lebed] Then a large, well-trained and well-managed armed fist could emerge in the center of Europe. This is the result of a policy pursued by the Russian Defense Ministry and the Russian Government. [interview ends]

P.S. Yelena Yefimova, press secretary of the Dniester Moldova Republic president, said that Igor Smirnov does not intend to revise his position on the withdrawal of the 14th Army. The Dniester people, the president said, declared categorically against the withdrawal of the army in the 26 April 1995 referendum. The Dniester Region leadership has taken a number of moves which resulted in the discussion of this question in the Russian State Duma. Igor Smirnov hopes that Russian politicians will take the will of the people of the Dniester Region into account. "I cannot venture to interfere in the actions by the Russian Defense Ministry. I am interested in only thing: that the army should be here," the president said.

Lebed Denies He Was Offered Post in Baykal District

AU2804113395 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 2000 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tiraspol INFOTAG, 27/4/1995—The Russian 14th Army Commander, Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed, stated that he has no official offers for any new appointments. He named as "fibs" all rumors about it, including statements that he was allegedly offered the post of the deputy commander of the Baykal Military District. When asked by our correspondent who was telling lies, the general replied laconically: "The Defense Minister." He repeated that he learned about the ministry's initiative to restructure his army only from the media, for nobody sent him any

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official instructions, and, naturally, nothing is undertaken to fulfill them. Lebed said the atmosphere in his army is as usual, and everybody is doing what he is supposed to do. "Everything is OK and normal with us. In fact, I am the most normal army commander in our entire jumble of independent states," he remarked.

Aleksandr Lebed refrained from commenting on yesterday's Russian State Duma resolution concerning the 14th Army. "The document puts everything very obscurely. For example, I fail to understand such a piquant wording as 'to recommend to the government to undertake relevant measures to ensure efficient functioning of the 14th Army,' and also 'to take additional measures to normalize the political and economic situation around the Dniester Moldovan Republic.' In my opinion, the word rubbish does not oblige anybody to do anything," Lebed said. [as received]

Snegur, Hungarian Official Hold Talks on Crime Prevention

AU2704123695 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1910 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 26/4/1995—Moldovan President Mircea Snegur expressed satisfaction about his last week's official visit to Hungary. He said today to Kalman Kocsis, director of the Hungarian Information Service, that "we have already begun implementing the accords reached in Budapest." Snegur and Kocsis discussed issues of cooperation between Moldova and Hungary in preventing drug and weapons traffic, prevention of terrorism, and distribution of chemical and nuclear arms components. Kalman Kocsis, who is on a working visit to Moldova, spoke in favor of constant cooperation in the field of providing security of the two states.

Unknown Persons Fire Bazooka at Komrat Police HQ

AU2704121995 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1910 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Komrat INFOTAG, 26/4/1995—Unknown persons fired at the Komrat Police headquarters with a bazooka last night. Fortunately, nobody was injured.

This is not the first instance of assault of Moldovan law-enforcement bodies in Komrat. Local observers attribute these dangerous episodes to the fact that after the establishment of the Gagauz Yeri administrative-territorial unit, the fate of the Bujak Guard Battalion is still uncertain.

Gagauz President Stepan Topal presumes that the battalion servicemen will be transferred to the Moldovan Carabineers Subdivision No 1045 deployed in southern Moldova.

"They are people with weapons, and their problem should be solved with great caution and gradually. There are lots of examples all over the ex-USSR what the results of hasty decisions may be," Topal said.

Officials in Komrat believe that the shelling is related not only to the discontent of the Bujak military, but also with attempts of certain forces to destabilize the situation in Gagauzia before the Bashkan (head) election scheduled for 28 April.

Media Campaign Begins To Advertise Privatization

AU2804112895 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 2000 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 27/4/1995—The presentation of television commercials targeted on attracting public attention to new privatization stage was held in Chisinau on Thursday, 27 April. The new advertising campaign has a new motto: "Privatization. For the future. For you," and it reflects the realities of today, that is, the mass public participation in the privatization by means of the national patrimonial bonds (NPB), which will last until 15 September, as well as the launching of the post-privatization economic reforms.

"This corresponds to the objectives of the new privatization program, which has been signed by the president [Mircea Snegur] and will come into force upon publication," Privatization Minister Ceslav Ciobanu said to journalists. "An overwhelming majority of Moldovan citizens have received their NPBs already, and over one-third of the population has already invested them. What is most important now is not to lose the tempo and to regularly inform the population on new possibilities of participation in market reforms."

The four commercials have been shot to the order of the privatization ministry by the U.S. companies of the PBN and R&R Advertising. The beginning of the new nationwide campaign is one of the six sections of a complex informative and educative program in the privatization sphere for 1995.

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Kazakhstan

Preparations Complete for Vote on President's Powers

LD2704193495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1817 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ALMATY, April 27 (Interfax)—The preparations for holding a referendum on extending the powers of President Nursultan Nazarbayev have been essentially completed. The referendum will take place on April 29, Chairman of the Kazakh Central Election Commission Yuriy Kim told a press conference in Almaty today.

He said that 10,197 constituencies had been created in the republic where 8.897,281 million voters would cast their ballots. The voting will be held from 7:00 am till 20:00 pm.

The referendum will be valid if more than 50 percent of registered voters take part in it. The Kazakh president's powers will be extended if 51 percent of those voting cast their ballots in favor of this, Kim said.

He said he believed that the majority of Kazakh voters, including himself, would vote in favor of extending the president's powers. Kim said voters would have to decide not on the future of President Nazarbayev but on the future of Kazakhstan and the reforms.

Kim said international organizations had not yet sent their observers for the referendum. He added that "some Kazakh parties and public movements" willing to observe the referendum had been allowed to do so.

Security Chief on Role in Fight Against Crime

LD2704170695 Almaty Kazakh Television First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] It is not so long ago that we attached such notions as fear, uncertainty, and secrecy to the Committee for National Security. That was then. Today employees of the Committee for National Security are fighting against crime in the country in conjunction with the interior affairs organizations. Apart from this, the Committee for National Security stands guard over the republic's state security.

[Begin recording] [Sat Tokbakbayev, chairman of National Security Committee] We have uncovered 167 organized groups of criminals and racketeers in the country. Racketeers have been particularly active in the Karaganda Region, in the city of Almaty, in Almaty region, and in Pavlodar Region—in all 25 groups totalling about 300 people.

On 19 April, together with the Almaty Main Department for Interior Affairs, we detained a group of national kick-boxing champions. The group of six people was headed by one Manchzhuyev. On 21 April, together with the Almaty Main Department for Interior Affairs, we caught red-handed three people from the Russian Federation who were extorting a large sum of money in foreign currency from the director of a small enterprise.

[Unidentified correspondent] How about relations with your colleagues from the CIS and other foreign countries; do you cooperate with them?

[Tokbakbayev] All special services understand that it is very difficult to fight on their own. Therefore, we have bilateral agreements with all CIS countries.

[Correspondent] When Kazakhstan was just getting onto its feet and was just gaining its sovereignty, as you yourself have said, a large number of both precious metals and money slipped away abroad and remained there.

[Tokbakbayev] We have established appropriate contacts with representatives of special services of foreign countries outside the former Soviet Union. We ask them, and they render the appropriate assistance.

[Correspondent] Have any crimes been committed in Kazakhstan recently that are a threat to our republic's sovereignty, integrity, and independence, especially in the banking sector?

[Tokbakbayev] In conjunction with the Interior Ministry bodies, criminal proceedings have been instituted against (Enshin), the director of the joint-stock commercial bank Kustanay Bank, who, for mercenary motives, gave legal entities interest-free credits and letters of guarantee to obtain credits from other banks, and also transferred funds from Kazakhstan to Russia. As a result of this, damage equivalent to about 12 million tenge was caused.

Serious infringements have been uncovered in the distribution and use of targeted state credits totalling 16 million tenge in the joint-stock Agro-Industrial Bank of Kazakhstan and the state territorial joint-stock company Dzhambyl Ken Dala. [end recording]

Tajikistan

Moscow Not To 'Tolerate' Russian Deaths

LD2704165295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1607 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 27 (Interfax)—Russia does not consider itself as a party to the Tajik conflict. The statement made by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev saying that Moscow will no longer tolerate deaths of its servicemen on the Tajik-Afghan border remains valid, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Albert Chernyshov told Interfax today.

Commenting on the statement of the Russian Foreign Ministry made after the inter-Tajik consultations were completed in Moscow, he said Russian border guards and the CIS peacekeeping troops in Tajikistan respected the agreements between the Tajik conflicting parties and did not violate the agreements when performing their functions. Chernyshov said Moscow meant that if the

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Tajik conflicting parties agreed on something, including agreements on ceasefire, Russia would respect all such agreements.

Chernyshov said that, however, if these agreements were violated on the Tajik-Afghan border Russian border guards would have the right to use all available means for preventing such violations and defending themselves. He stressed that such was international practice.

Chernyshov said when assessing the results of the inter-Tajik consultations mediated by Russia, that both Dushanbe and the opposition Movement for Islamic Rebirth of Tajikistan had displayed good will and wisdom and achieved "good agreements."

Chernyshov said Moscow approved of the extension of the agreement on ceasefire in Tajikistan and on the Tajik-Afghan border until May 26.

He said he hoped that Dushanbe and the opposition would extend the ceasefire agreement for six months during the fourth round of inter-Tajik talks in Almaty planned for late May.

Russia Pleased With Tajik Consultations in Moscow

LD2704145595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1445 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 27 (Itar-Tass)—Russian Foreign Ministry official Nikita Matkovskiy today described as "a major phase of dialogue between the Tajik government and the opposition" the decision on the extension of the ceasefire agreement until May 26 and on the next round of talks to be held in Almaty from May 22.

The talks will center around on the basic aspects of the constitutional system and consolidation of the state in the Republic of Tajikistan.

The consultations which led to the adoption of these decisions have ended in Moscow. They were organised with assistance from Russia and held under the U.N. aegis.

The level and duration of the consultations, the presence of representatives of observer-countries, the scope and significance of the subjects discussed, and the nature of the final document place them on a par with a full-scale round of talks.

Of special importance is that the parties to the conflict pledged not to relocate the armed forces, including the opposition armed groups on Afghan territory, Nikita Matkovskiy said.

Along with this he said it was to be regretted that the well-grounded proposal by the government delegation to settle disputes about relocation of units on the basis of the return to the situation which existed on both sides of the Tajik-Afghan border prior to the signing of the ceasefire agreement was rejected by the opposition delegation.

The parties decided to re-examine the remaining differences in the course of bilateral contacts before the beginning of the next round of talks.

The forthcoming meeting between President Emomali Rakhmanov of Tajikistan and the leader of the Islamic Revival Movement of Tajikistan Sayyed Abdullohi Nouri is expected to become a landmark in the course of dialogue between the government and the opposition. The negotiators in Moscow confirmed their agreement to holding such a meeting.

"We express satisfaction with the fact that the intra-Tajik negotiating process was resumed. The Russian side believes in the importance of upgrading its intensity with a view to putting talks on a regular basis. Of course the opposition leadership, if it really intends to move towards national reconciliation, should agree to a considerable extension of the term of the ceasefire agreement. U.N. officials insist on the same," Matkovskiy said.

Russia is prepared to continue close cooperation with the U.N. secretary's special envoy to Tajikistan and the observer-countries in the interests of constructive development of the Tajik negotiating process, Matkovskiy stressed.

Rakhmanov Pleased With Outcome of Moscow Talks

LD2704162795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0926 GMT 27 Apr 95

[By Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dushanbe, 27 Apr. (ITAR-TASS)— The leadership of Tajikistan is satisfied over the results of the talks between the Tajik government delegation and opposition representatives that ended in Moscow on 26 April. This was stated today in an exclusive interview with the ITAR-TASS correspondent by Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov.

He stressed that agreement had been reached on extending the inter-Tajik agreement to cease fire on the Tajik-Afghan border, and other hostile actions inside the country. The place and the time for the 4th round of the inter-Tajik talks had also been set.

The Tajik leader said he was grateful to the Russian side for their active assistance in the preparation and holding of the inter-Tajik consultations in Moscow. He said he was grateful to the United Nations and other prestigious international organizations for their support and understanding the problem of Tajikistan. "The negotiation process was, as everyone knows, difficult," the president stressed. "But common sense and the ambition to reach

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a speedy solution of the inter-Tajik problems and national accord have triumphed over political ambitions."

The Tajik leadership, the republic's president said, from the very beginning was consistent in advocating a peaceful political solution to the problem. "Once more we wish to confirm our decision on extending indefinitely the inter-Tajik accords on a cease-fire and we hope that our initiative will be supported by the opposition leader," Rakhmanov said. "It is peace, calm and national accord that the Tajik people, who have suffered the tragedy of the recent civil war which claimed thousands of lives, need most of all."

Rakhmanov confirmed once more that for the sake of achieving quickly this goal he is prepared to meet the leader of the Tajik Islamic Revival Party.

Tajik Representative Comments After Moscow Talks

LD2704121395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1026 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 27 (Interfax)—Head of the delegation of the Tajik opposition at the negotiations in Moscow, Akbar Turadzhonzoda, believed it important that Russia recognizes the inter-Tajik ceasefire agreement on the Tajik-Afghan border and "its obligation not to violate it."

In an interview with Interfax Wednesday evening [26 April] after the conclusion of the inter-Tajik consultations in Moscow, he pointed out that "nevertheless, we failed to overcome one of the obstacles, namely to agree on withdrawal of 950 government servicemen from Badakhshan."

"These military men were sent there despite our previous agreements. The government delegation did not agree to the need to withdraw them and finally we left this issue to leaders of the opposition and Tajikistan's present government for consideration," he underlined.

"We believe that the presence of these sevicemen in Badakhshan makes the situation in the region highly explosive," Turadzhonzoda said. He explained the need for the disengagement of the warring forces in Badakhshan "by possible dangerous consequences if they engage in all-out battle."

This issue is expected to be discussed in two weeks in Kabul by Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov and head of the opposition Movement of Tajikistan's Islamic Revival, Said Abdullo Nuri.

Rakhmanov To Meet Opposition Leader in May

LD2704175795 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Uzbek 1300 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The term of the agreement on a temporary cease-fire on the Tajik-Afgan border and inside the republic, signed in September 1994 between Tajik opposition representatives and the Tajik Government, expired yesterday [26 April]. The issue was therfore clarified during a consultative meeting in Moscow between a government delegation from the Republic of Tajikistan and the opposition representatives, a meeting aimed at continuing the inter- Tajik negotiations. For certain reasons and because of the protracted negotiations between the sides, they agreed to extend the ceasefire on the Tajik-Afghan border and inside the republic for another month. The fourth round of inter-Tajik talks will be held on 22 May in Almaty. It will address issues of concern to the two sides.

In addition, it is planned that a meeting between Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov and Sayed Abdullo Nuri, leader of the Tajik opposition, will take place in May.

Opposition Warns of Fresh Clashes in Badakhshan Area

LD2704205195 Tehran IRNA in English 2021 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 27, IRNA—The Tajik opposition did not rule out the possibility of new clashes near the Tajik border if the government forces do not leave Badakhshan area.

At the end of the consultative talks with representatives of the Tajik Government in Moscow, head of the Tajik opposition delegation, Akbar Turajonzoda, told IRNA late Wednesday [26 April] that the talks were a 'little step' towards peace.

Turajonzoda said "although Moscow and Dushanbe have clearly admitted violation of the Tehran ceasefire agreement, we have been unable to make them correct their previous mistakes."

Referring to extension of the ceasefire term for another month, he said the opposition tries to avoid another fight. Therefore, he said, the opposition delegation has proposed the Tajik Government to pull out its extra troops from the Badakhshan area.

Turajonzoda said Dushanbe did not agree with the proposal and every moment, there was a possibility of new clashes in the area.

He said the United States has agreed to send more peace monitors to the Tajik border.

Turajonzoda said the opposition called for the transfer of the venue of the fourth round of negotiations to Almaty because Russia violated the Tehran Agreement by sending more troops to the area. The United Nations has agreed with the transfer, he added.

The fourth round of negotiations between the Tajik Government and the opposition was expected to be held

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in Moscow in February 1995 but it was delayed due to disagreement of the Tajik opposition parties on its venue.

Supreme Assembly Chairman Receives OSCE Delegation

LD2704115895 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0800 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Supreme Assembly Chairman Safarali Rajabov received a delegation from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe [OSCE] consisting of Gancho Ganchev, head of the organization's mission in Tajikistan; Audrey Glover, director of the OSCE Warsaw Bureau for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights; Bocho Borva, extraordinary envoy of the secretary in the OSCE chairman's administration; and his deputy, Istvan Kamorochki.

They exchanged views mainly on political reform in the Republic of Tajikistan. Supreme Assembly Chairman Safarali Rajabov stressed that the Republic of Tajikistan is steadily progressing along a democratic path.

Speaking about the presidential elections and the referendum, the approval of the republic's new constitution, and the elections to the Supreme Assembly and local government, he noted that these political campaigns were conducted entirely according to democratic precepts. Consistent efforts are being made in the republic to implement the requirements of the new constitution and the decisions made by the Supreme Assembly.

They also had a useful conversation on securing civil rights and liberties. The meeting was held in a spirit of mutual understanding and was beneficial.

Islamic Revival Leader on Presence of Russian Soldiers

LD2704163095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1520 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 27 (Interfax)—The presence of a great number of Russian servicemen in Tajikistan arouses the concern of its neighboring states, First Deputy Chairman of the Movement of Tajikistan's Islamic Revival Akbar Turadzhonzoda declared at a press conference in Moscow Thursday [27 April].

"If supporters of the former USSR's restoration come to power in Russia the great amount of Russian forces will threaten the security of states neighboring Tajikistan," he said. According to him, Uzbek President Islam Karimov expressed such fears in a conversation with him early April.

Tajikistan President Emomali Rakhmanov "consistently calls on Moscow" to increase Russia's military presence in the republic "to defend his regime," Turadzhonzoda noted. "As former communists, Russian servicemen and border guards support the communist regime in Dushanbe and are not a neutral force in our country," he believes.

"We understand Russia's geo-strategic and political interests in Tajikistan and do not oppose the presence of its forces in the republic, however, their number should be strictly restricted," Turadzhonzoda said.

"We believes that the Joint CIS Peacekeeping Forces, 50 percent Russian servicemen and 50 percent soldiers from other CIS states, should be present in Tajikistan," he underlined.

According to Turadzhonzoda, the Russian border guards should defend the Tajik-Afghan border "but later the Tajik party will take over these duties."

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Armenia

Foreign Ministry Welcomes UN Statement on Conflict

NC2704211295 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1900 GMT 27 Apr 95

[Statement by Foreign Ministry press center; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The UN Security Council issued a presidential statement on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict on 26 April 1995. In keeping with the procedure stipulated in Article 8 of UN Security Council Resolution 884, the Security Council heard a report from Co-chairmen of the OSCE Minsk Conference Jan Eliasson and Valentin Lozinskiy before adopting the statement.

That report described the reactivated political process in the aftermath of the OSCE summit in Budapest and also marked the end of the Swedish term as co-chairman of the Minsk Conference. The position of co-chairmanship has been assumed by Finland as of 21 April 1995.

The presidential statement has essentially maintained the spirit of the documents adopted previously by the UN Security Council on the Nagorno-Karabakh problem. It basically aims at spurring the process of the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict within the OSCE, a tenet which, as the manifestation of the continuation of the [words indistinct] of the heads of state of OSCE countries, has been enshrined in the [word indistinct] documents of the Budapest summit. The Budapest resolution had also defined the basic issues of enlisting the UN in this problem with the aim of putting it at the service of consolidating [word indistinct] OSCE's mediatory efforts.

It was with the intention of contributing to that issue that the UN Security Council gave its consent to the presidential statement.

The document of 26 April contains an exhaustive (?effusion) of those fundamental elements essential for the progress of the Minsk process which had been enshrined at the Budapest summit; namely, the positioning of peacekeeping forces, [words indistinct], and the speedy resumption of talks for a political agreement on the termination of the military operations.

The Armenian Foreign Ministry assesses the UN Security Council presidential statement as a manifestation of the continued awareness and interest by that prestigious international tribunal as regards the process for the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. At the same time, the Armenian Foreign Ministry hopes that this document will spur the process of the resolution of the Nagorno- Karabakh conflict within the OSCE Minsk Conference, thus assisting the future productivity of OSCE's efforts.

Health Minister Starts Visit to Romania

NC2704212595 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1900 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Armenian Health Minister Ara Babloyan and Ara Ter-Grigoryan, head of the International Relations Department of the Health Ministry, left for Romania at the invitation of the its Health Ministry. The goal of the visit is to formulate and implement concrete measures within the framework of the agreement on cooperation in the health field which was signed last fall between the ministries of the two countries.

Karabakh Official Details Azeri-Caused Damage

NC2704152895 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0840 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Stepanakert ("Hayastani Hanrapetutyun" daily), 04/27/95—"Based on the most modest calculations, at least $2.5bln damage was caused to the economy of Karabakh as a result of the Azeri aggression", said First Deputy Prime Minister of the RMK [Republic of Mountainous Karabakh] and Minister of Economy Spartak Tevosyan.

He said that the policy of "burnt land", carried out by the Azeri troops, has ruined the economy of newly independent republic. About 8,000 industrial, agricultural, construction, and other objects, 7,000 living buildings, 172 educational and 47 medical institutions have suffered as a result of enemy shellings.

Mr. Tevosyan said that, according to preliminary data, several hundreds of Armenian hostages are kept in Azeri prisons, among them women and children.

The same sources reported that the Azeri army currently controls about 22 percent of the Karabakh territory, and are damaging historio-architectural monuments, created by Armenian, Russian, and Greek people. Particularly, the enemy destroyed Urek (5th century) church in the village of Talish, Surb Nshan (18th century) in the village of Haterk, Vardany (13th century) in the village of Vaghuhas in the Martakert district, St.Virgin church in the village of Arakial and St. Hovhannes in the village of Khandzadzor in the Hadrut district. Three of six churches in the town of Shusha were destroyed. 18 ancient monuments in the Martuni district were damaged as a result of shellings, among them a Kazakh church in the Gevorgavan region. According to Spartak Tevosyan, the damage in the field of education and culture is evaluated at $300mln.

Azerbaijan

OSCE Group Criticized Over Karabakh Conflict

NC2704164695 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1250 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Geydar Aliyev today received (Istvan Diarmoti), chairman of OSCE

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[Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] Committee of Senior Officials; Rene Niberg, co-chairman of OSCE Minsk Conference; and Vladimir Kazimirov, co-chairman of OSCE Minsk Group. Karanfil Khalilova reports:

[Begin recording] [Khalilova] Indicating that he would like to construe the frequent visits paid to our republic by OSCE Minsk Conference representatives of late as an attempt to activate a solution of the conflict, Heydar Aliyev said that the first anniversary of the cease-fire on 12 May would be a day of accounting for both the conflicting sides and OSCE.

Istvan Diarmoti expressed uneasiness at the fact that the OSCE scored no other achievement save the almost a year-long cease-fire and Budapest summit resolution. Mr. Diarmoti noted that despite the formulation and drafting of proposals and mechanisms at the level of various organizations, their implementation has become a problem due to the disagreement between the sides. The leaders of OSCE and the Minsk Conference noted that the mediation mission aims at ensuring the continuation of the cease-fire, stationing peacekeeping forces in the conflict zone, and achieving tangible progress towards peace at the talks, and that they will not spare any effort to achieve this goal.

The OSCE representative stated that the prolonged continuation of the cease-fire without any results in terms of political talks does not also suit the international organization. The 25-year-long [as heard] cease-fire experience in Cyprus showed that in itself the cease-fire does not play a determining role in the resolution of such conflicts. Mr. Diarmoti asked the Azerbaijani president to put forward his concrete proposals and criticisms.

Stressing that the bloodshed, displacement of refugees, and land occupation has stopped during the cease-fire period, Minsk Group Co-Chairman Vladimir Kazimirov put forward his proposals on the possibility of continuing the talks with various methods of approach to achieve a solid, just, and credible peace.

The Azerbaijani president noted that since 1992, OSCE has assumed the task of peaceful resolution of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict. But has this organization achieved anything since then for the prevention of aggression and losses? Since OSCE's assumption of the mediation mission, the Armenians have continued their occupationist policy, save for last year; they first occupied Nagorno-Karabakh and then the seven rayons surrounding it. The Armenian armed units committed massacres and evicted almost 1 million Azerbaijanis from their homes. Though bitter to admit, the four UN Security Council resolutions have remained only on paper. Regrettably, the OSCE—which was first chaired by an Italian, then a Swede, and now a Hungarian diplomat—has spent its time so far not differentiating between the just and unjust but learning the positions of the sides. Despite the fact that it is clear as daylight who is the occupier and who is the innocent victim, it approaches the sides with the same principle and reconciles itself with Armenia's coercive claims that are incompatible with international law and norms. [passage omitted]

President Aliyev also specifically noted the potential importance of the Russian mediation for the resolution of the conflict.

In appreciating the president's criticisms as a constructive contribution, the Hungarian diplomat Istvan Diarmoti confirmed the sluggish character of the Minsk Conference activities and explained this by the fact that for a while OSCE turned its attention to a number of other urgent problems and the chairmanship of OSCE was handed over to Hungary just four months ago. The diplomat stressed the invincible truth that the OSCE considers the territorial integrity of the countries all over the world as a determining principle, and that for him there only exists the way forward for the resolution of the conflict, be it the liberation of the territories or return of the refugees to their homes. [end recording]

Aliyev Receives Romanian Foreign Minister

NC2704191695 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Romania was second after Turkey to recognize Azerbaijan's independence. Romania's contribution to the political, economic, and cultural life of our republic is appreciated. An exchange of views were held on the development of bilateral ties during the meeting between the Romanian delegation headed by Foreign Minister Teodor Malescanu and Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev.

In conveying Romanian President Ion Iliescu's sincere greetings to President Geydar Aliyev, the guest invited him to Bucharest to take part in the June meeting of the heads of state of Black Sea Economic Cooperation countries. It was also noted that the Romanian president has invited Geydar Aliyev to pay an official visit to Romania.

The Azerbaijani president expressed thanks for the invitation and accepted it with pleasure. Aliyev said that his talks with the Romanian president at international forums form the basis for the future political, economic, and cultural cooperation. Our head of state highly assessed the Romanian Government's objective positions during the Budapest summit in December 1994 on the peaceful resolution of Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict. Aliyev briefed the guests on the consequences of Armenia's occupationist war waged against Azerbaijan, present grave situation faced by the refugees, and on social and political situation in the country. A reference was made to the OSCE's peace efforts aimed at recovering Azerbaijan's historic lands and securing the withdrawal of the Armenian Armed Forces in addition to the continuation of the existing cease-fire. It was noted that the Romanian state too should make an effort in this direction.

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Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov and the State Adviser on Economic Policies Vahid Akhundov were instructed to draft a package of proposals on the improvement of economic ties.

Aliyev then requested that Mr. Teodor Malescanu convey his invitation to Romanian President Ion Iliescu to visit Azerbaijan at a convenient time for him.

Foreign Ministers Sign Protocol

NC2704190195 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Two important documents launching new relations between our two countries, namely the interstate memorandum of intention and a protocol on the cooperation between the Romanian and Azerbaijani foreign ministries, were signed during the meeting of Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov with Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Malescanu who is on an official visit to our republic.

Speaking on the need to expand ties with Romania, which was one of the first European states to recognize Azerbaijan's independence, Hasan Hasanov made reference to the history of our relations which goes back to the times of the former USSR. He noted that we are ready for every cooperation with Romania.

According to Mr. Malescanu, who was pleased at the consolidation of the legal basis for ties between our countries, the international organizations too could play an important role in the expansion of cooperation between Azerbaijan and Romania in the sphere of politics, economy, and culture. In expressing uneasiness over the intractable Karabakh problem, the minister noted that he has always been a supporter of Azerbaijan's position and its struggle for justice.

In this way the first steps were taken for the restoration of the ties established between Romania and Azerbaijan and for their development along a new path.

Azerbaijan Excludes Iran from Oil Consortium

MM2704104095 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Apr 95 First Edition p 7

[Article by Aleksandr Krasulin: "Azerbaijan: Political Auctions and Economic Blind Alleys. Hopes of Fabulous Profits from 'Contract of the Century' Not Being Fulfilled"]

[FBIS Translated Text] An incident unprecedented in international practice occurred recently in relations between two neighboring states—Azerbaijan and Iran. Baku had agreed to cede to Tehran a quarter of its 20-percent stake in the [Caspian Sea] oil consortium but under U.S. pressure suddenly excluded Iran from the parties to the project.

Tehran had still not completely recovered from this shattering news when Baku played host to Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller and offered her the same 5 percent that Iran was already regarding as its own according to the statement of intention signed between the two countries.

The idea of this contract dates back to the time of President Mutalibov, who was hoping for a single deal which would resolve at a stroke all the economic and political problems which had befallen Azerbaijan after the disintegration of the USSR. But President Elchibey, the leader of the People's Front, gave a marked anti-Russian slant to this idea. He adopted a course of rapprochement with Turkey not so much because it is a country of similar religious persuasion but because he wanted to use it as an intermediary in seeking a rapprochement with the West. He was succeeded in office by Geydar Aliyev, who pressed ahead with this scheme entirely, revising only a few terms of the contract which, in his opinion, harmed the country's national interests.

The new version was signed in September last year. According to it, Azerbaijan can expect to receive $34 billion from the sale of oil and 55 billion cubic meters of casinghead gas, all of which will remain in the republic. The local press carried optimistic articles which said that in the near future Azerbaijan would be transformed into a new Kuwait and that the Western partners would help to settle the conflict in Karabakh. However, difficulties soon emerged and the situation is now virtually out of control,and not only as far as Azerbaijan is concerned.

Initially the Russian Foreign Ministry had stated that the contract has no legal force. The main argument here is that since the disintegration of the USSR the legal status of the Caspian has not been defined. The Caspian cannot be divided by borders because it is not a sea but a closed inland waterway and therefore cannot be subject to the norms of international maritime law which make it possible to separate exclusive economic zones and the continental shelf—such is the essential point of them. That is also enshrined in the treaty between the USSR and Iran of 25 March 1940.

Tehran, thus slighted, then suddenly revealed a hostility to the "contract of the century" which it had not expressed before. The Iranian foreign minister stated recently that "until the status of the Caspian has been defined, no state has the right to exploit its resources unilaterally." As Radio Liberty has reported, the Iranian Foreign Ministry has coordinated this position with the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Thus, of the five countries whose shores are washed by the Caspian the two most powerful have opposed Baku's actions while a third, Kazakhstan, tacitly supported them. In this situation it is hard to imagine how the consortium will operate and even though Turkey is increasingly actively entering the fray for Caucasian oil in the hope of making up to 120 billion [currency unspecified] in pure profit, this changes little.

The fact is that the consortium's main problem is less to do with organizing oil extraction than with its transport.

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During the recent visit to Baku Tansu Ciller stated that "cooperation with Azerbaijan, involving Kazakhstan and other neighboring countries, will continue within the framework of the construction of the export pipeline," giving the impression that she was unaware of the Caspian pipeline consortium in which Russia, Kazakhstan, and Oman are participating. Meanwhile, this consortium is already carrying out the field work prior to siting the pipeline (see ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 12 April 1995). The defeat of the Dudayev regime in Chechnya removes the last objections to this route, which will link the Tengiz oil field with [the oil terminal of] Novorossiysk. But that will make it necessary to reconsider the preliminary plans in both Baku and Ankara.

In the West they are beginning to understand that without Russia's participation the Caspian oil fields could go the way of the gold fields in the Kyrgyz mountains and the Tengiz project in Kazakhstan. As David Nikolov, a senior official of British Petroleum, stated recently, his company is not reducing its staff in Baku and work is continuing according to the original plan but tension is already in evidence. As ITAR-TASS reported, citing reliable sources in the City of London, the project is still at the preliminary stage and work is continuing "exceptionally slowly." America's Chevron Corporation has decided to drastically scale down its current expenditure on developing the Tengiz oil field and has postponed the construction of a third oil refinery there until 1996 at the earliest because it is not getting the return from the project that it expected.

'Azadlyg' Leader Reviews Week's Events

954F2159D Baku ZERKALO in Russian 22 Apr 95 p 2

[Commentary by Azadlyg Party Chairman Akhmed Orudzhev: "Dead Calm in the Opposition Camp"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Notable among the events of the past week were the conference within the presidential apparatus dedicated to agriculture, the president's visit to Brussels, Azerbaijan's transfer to the American firm Exxon of 5 percent of its share in the consortium, and steps taken by Iran related to the status of the Caspian and other attempts by that country to exert pressure on Azerbaijan after being denied participation in the consortium.

Although the conference within the presidential apparatus was in fact devoted to agriculture, it failed to clear up the situation facing us today, or tomorrow for that matter, in this sector. The conference seemed to boil down to the president's utterances on the political situation and personnel changes.

The fact that this is far from the first time the president has mentioned bribery, corruption, and other phenomena in the state apparatus in his speeches points out the true state of affairs which has taken shape within state structures. The president seems, in the eyes of the public, to be simultaneously depriving the opposition of its means of exerting pressure on the authority. Every time the president delivers a speech on corruption, etc., a significant portion of the leading cadres in the auditorium (and outside it) feel uncomfortable and seem to be biding their time. This methodology is entirely suitable today for controlling high-ranking officials.

The inability of leading opposition forces to respond in worthy fashion to attacks in their direction says something about their true state of affairs. Ideological efforts of the authorities aimed at the average populace and the fact of how often the opposition falls into a trap are an indication that even if they desired to do so, leading opposition forces would not be able to abandon their "maternal" opposition functions and that they must play this "role" over the allotted period of time.

The calm continued throughout the week in the camp of the political opposition. There was no meeting of the "roundtable," which by its designation and composition cannot espouse a fixed position and is used by leaders of the parties to present themselves.

Generally speaking, since June of 1993, if we disregard the demonstration of 21 May 1994, the opposition has been unable to take any step worthy of note. In the same way that over this entire period, parties considered the main political forces in society have continued their activity, issuing the regular "operational" statements.

To date, we do not sense the "social upheaval of spring" promised by certain representatives of the political opposition. In actuality, there exists only one factor that might draw the "danger of social upheaval" closer. It is the means the opposition has been employing since 1988 to exert pressure on the authorities—the unsatisfactory overall state of the populace. While other factors—an organization the masses believe in, ideas that would attract these masses and whose reality would not elicit doubt—are absent.

As far as the main task facing society is concerned—the task of creating effective institutions of an independent state, this is not fully perceived by the ruling circles, and activity in this direction is not yet discernible.

Lack of perception of the main problem and the opposition's inability to propose a realistic alternative are bringing about a state of mass psychosis in society and an atmosphere of hopelessness.

The visit of republic President G. Aliyev to Brussels is a step aimed at resolving Azerbaijan's food problem, now that borders with Russia are closed, and there is no guarantee of continued economic partnership with Iran, following the events involving the consortium. Today the influence of the European Economic Union in resolving the republic's food problem is great, and we do not yet see any alternative approach.

Whereas the contract concluded with the American firm Exxon is, on the one hand, the result of Azerbaijan's

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need to settle the problem of initial dues for entry into the consortium, it indicates, on the other, that the current authority is showing a preference for cooperation with the West and that it will in time accept their rules of the game.

After Iran was denied participation in the consortium, official circles in Azerbaijan implied to the Iranians that they would invite them to participate in the exploitation of other oil fields in the Caspian region. Despite this development, Iranian authorities are insisting that the Caspian is a "closed sea" and that exploitation of its natural resources is the business of all the Caspian states. They are demanding discussion of the issue of the Caspian's status. In addition, the meeting of heads of state of Iran, Armenia, and Turkmenistan dedicated to economic questions and Azerbaijan's nonparticipation in it constitute evidence of Iran's intention to afford Armenia an outlet through its territory to Central Asian markets.

Of course, the fact that Iran raised the question of the status of the Caspian after attempts on the part of political circles in Russia—the country with the greatest power and prestige in the region—to discuss this question petered out, is regrettable. But when we compare Iran with the countries participating in the consortium, it becomes apparent that this country will not prove an insurmountable obstacle in the path of implementation of this agreement.

The situation as it has taken shape today reinforces Russia's position on the oil pipeline question. Agreements on military bases that Russia has concluded with Armenia and Georgia enhance the possibility that the oil pipeline will be laid across territory it controls directly or indirectly. As far as Iran is concerned, although passage of the oil pipeline through its territory meets the country's long-range interests, today this is not linked with Iranian state policy.

Nothing significant has taken place with regard to the conflict in Nagornyy Karabakh. Armenia is insisting on resolution of the issue of the status of Nagornyy Karabakh prior to the dislocation of peacemaking forces there.

There have been no significant changes in the exchange rate of the dollar, the degree of provision of bread, or the hopes of contributors to charitable organizations. Most plants are still not operating.

Founding Conference for 'Unity' Party

954F2159C Baku ZERKALO in Russian 22 Apr 95 p 3

[Unattributed, untitled report under the rubric "Party Life"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The constituent conference of the Vakhdad (Unity) Party is expected to take place on 22 April. The new party will adhere to democratic principles and will promote the model of statehood of 1918-1920 (the period of the Azerbaijani Democratic Republic). Vakhdad will strive to unify democratic parties within a structure of the existing "roundtable" variety. Active participation in the upcoming fall parliamentary elections is viewed as one of its top-priority tasks.

Parties Form New Political Bloc

954F2159B Baku ZERKALO in Russian 22 Apr 95 p 3

[Unattributed, untitled report under the rubric "Party Life"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The parties New Azerbaijan, Independent Azerbaijan, Alliance in the Name of Azerbaijan, and Party of Democratic Independence have advanced an initiative creating the political bloc Democratic Azerbaijan. Representatives of these parties are presently drafting a declaration on establishment of the bloc. Being proclaimed as its main principles are acknowledgment of the legitimacy of the present administration, predominance of common national interests over party interests, unacceptability of unconstitutional methods in replacing the authority, and assertion of the priority of Azerbaijan's statehood.

Radar Facility To Be Leased to Russia

954F2159A Baku ZERKALO in Russian 22 Apr 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Azerbaijan To Afford Russia Gabala Radar Facility on Long-Term Lease"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Work on the draft Azerbaijan-Russia agreement on use of the Gabala Radar Facility is nearing completion. The agreement will be a topic of discussion during the coming visit to Baku of Russian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Albert Chernyshev. Providing information in this regard to a KHABAR-SERVIS Agency correspondent, the State Commission on preparation of the document noted that the radar facility will be leased to Russia over an extended period and will obtain status as the only Russian military base in this country.

"Azerbaijan will not be able to independently use the Gabala Radar Facility, and has no need to do so," stated Alik Abbasov, first deputy general director of the Azerbaijan Aerospace Agency, to our KHABAR-SERVIS correspondent. Mr. Abbasov said that after this facility was placed in operation in 1984, the radiation background in Gabala and adjoining regions deteriorated by a factor of three. "The most acceptable way for the republic to handle this matter, therefore, is to lease the radar facility, while establishing maximum permissible norms with respect to influence on the surrounding area and strictly controlling the ecological environment in the vicinity of the facility," A. Abbasov stated.

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Georgia

Shevardnadze Receives NATO Assembly Delegation

LD2704132795 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1130 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tbilisi. 27 Apr—Chairman of the Georgian Parliament and Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze on 27 April received a North Atlantic Assembly delegation led by Loic Bouvard, vice president of the French National Assembly .

It was noted at the meeting that Georgia is interested in close cooperation with the North Atlantic Assembly. [passage omitted]

It was mentioned at the meeting that new parliamentary elections will be held this year.

Mr. Bouvard thanked the head of state for his detailed briefing and promised to help enrol Georgia as an associated member of the North Atlantic Assembly.

Georgia Refuses To Sign CIS Agreements

LD2704125695 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1200 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As is known, a meeting of the CIS states' foreign ministers has been held in Moscow. One of the questions on the agenda was the discussion of the draft agreement on the joint protection of the outer borders of the CIS states.

According to Georgian Deputy Foreign Minister Giga Burduli, Georgia did not sign the draft as Georgia's territorial integrity is currently being infringed and he stated that Georgia will sign the draft provided its territorial integrity is restored.

The meeting also discussed human rights. Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandre Chikvaidze suggested changing the word "concept" to "declaration" in the title. The suggestion was not accepted. Therefore, the Georgian delegation did not sign the document.

Abkhazia's Ardzinba Refutes Shevardnadze Statement

MM2704133495 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Apr 95 p 1

[Article by Tatyana Gulia, leader of the press service of the plenipotentiary representative of the Republic of Abkhazia to the Russian Federation: "Denial by the President of Abkhaziya"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In response to the statement by Georgia's Head of State E. Shevardnadze on the existence of a conspiracy between the Abkhaz authorities and the Chechen guerrillas concerning the basing of the latter in Abkhazia, Abkhaz Republic President Vladislav Ardzinba said: "This is yet another bogus report by the Georgian special services, and even the head of the Georgian state himself is not ashamed at spreading it. Its purpose is to slander the people and the leadership of the republic, and to use Russia to exert pressure on Abkhazia in the interests of Georgia.

"It is no accident that the bogus report appeared now, following the well-known All-Abkhazia Assembly of the Multiethnic People of the Republic, which has yet again appealed to Russia with the request that Abkhazia be admitted into its membership, which it has, as a matter of fact, never left. Georgia, which had been presented with Abkhazia as a result of Stalin's arbitrary rule, is doing everything possible and impossible to prevent the realization of the aspirations of the multiethnic people of Abkhazia."

Strength, Deployments of Abkhaz Militants Noted

LD2704152595 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1320 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi (IPRINDA)—An agency correspondent has learned from well-informed sources that since February 1995 the number of Abkhaz armed forces' personnel and so- called Abkhaz militiamen in the security zone and on the territory of the Gali District has fluctuated between 300 and 400 men. They have two BMP-1 armored personnel carriers, one BMP-2 armored personnel carrier, one T-55 tank, two GRAD installations, and one self-propelled gun. They are deployed in the gorge of the river Ukumi (height 553,6m; GRAD rockets are located there) and the village of Khumushkuri (an anti-aircraft gun mounted on a blue ZIL truck is located at the home of a local inhabitant).

The source also reports that, from the beginning of 1995, the Abkhaz side started the construction of various fortifications on the right bank of the Eritsqaro river and 10 fixed firing points.

On the Inguri river bridge, alongside the Russian peacekeepers, there are 10-15 Abkhaz combatants camouflaged as so-called Abkhaz militia. All fords across the Inguri have been mined.

The same source reports that a whole string of Russian commercial banks this year rendered sizeable financial assistance to Abkhazia. Agrobank gave various Abkhaz bodies 16 billion rubles [R], Zhirinovskiy's Tiko bank gave Abkhazia R200 million, and Agroprombank gave a credit of R3 billion.

Directive Issued Supporting Veterans, Needy

LD2704181895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1629 GMT 27 Apr 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, and edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze issued an order about social support to veterans of the Great Patriotic War and to the most needy groups of the population.

The signing of this document is timed to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the Victory Day, the presidential press service reported to Interfax Thursday.

In accordance with the instruction veterans will receive a one- time material aid totalling 5 million coupons (about 20,000 rubles) and the most needy groups of the society, invalids, refugees, etc., 3 million coupons each. Employees of higher institutions are in the list of the most needy people.

Interior Ministry Mounts Anticrime Drive in Tbilisi

LD2804105995 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1015 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi (IPRINDA)—In the early hours of the morning on 28 April the Georgian Interior Ministry within the framework of its anticrime campaign started to carry out a wide-scale operation in the Georgian capital. The action is being carried out jointly with the Guard Department, a subunit of which is headed by General Jemal Chumburidze. The operation is being supervised by Interior Minister Lt-Gen Shota Kviraia. Colonel Valerian Gogolashvili, head of the Interior Ministry press center, told an agency correspondent that the details of the operation have been agreed with the republic's prosecutor-general, Jamlet Babilashvili. He has also noted that despite a certain stabilization of the criminal situation, it still remains complex, which necessitated carrying out of the above operation (instances of terrorist acts, clashes and altercations between bandit formations and the so-called "brotherhoods" have increased. As a result of these clashes innocent people have suffered).

Since the morning of 28 April the operation participants (about 1,800 men) sealed off 19 approaches to Tbilisi; they also cordoned off 10 bridges in Tbilisi, using armored vehicles. Picket lines have been deployed at 41 points in highways. All vehicles are being checked for weapons and narcotics. According to data at 1200, 27 people have been detained, out of which seven were wanted criminals. One gang has been disarmed and four crimes cleared up; four couriers, trying to smuggle drugs, have been arrested; five fire arms and a great number of ammunition and grenades have been withdrawn.

The operation continues.

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Estonia

President Cited on Relations With Europe, Russia

LD2704153795 Tallinn Estonian Television Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 26 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] For decades the Council of Europe has supported Estonia's independence and has de jure recognized the existence of our state. This is what President Lennart Meri said on his return from Strasbourg, from a plenary session of the Council of Europe's parliamentary assembly. The first Estonian president to speak at a plenary session, Meri stated that Estonia has an honest and just nationality policy, and our liberal citizenship law serves as its cornerstone.

At a meeting with Council of Europe Secretary-General Daniel Tarschys and parliamentary assembly president Miguel-Angel Martinez, relations between Estonia and the Council of Europe were discussed as well as the implementation in Estonia of Council of Europe programs worth up to 6 million Estonian kroons.

Touching on Estonian-Russian relations, Meri said that the areas of land [which were formerly part of prewar Estonia but] which are presently under Russian control must be viewed separately from the Tartu Peace Treaty [of 1920].

[Begin recording] [Meri] The Tartu Peace Treaty is the treaty through which the Republic of Estonia was born. This treaty acts as our birth certificate and will remain to serve as the foundation to our statehood. If we have any territorial disputes with the Russian Federation they must be resolved before we step closer to the European structures because joining the European structures means the absence of any territorial disputes. [Meri pauses] I expect that I have now answered your question.

[Unidentified correspondent] How realistic is it to have a border agreement concluded with Russia this year?

[Meri] During the past year Estonia has constantly highlighted its readiness to deal with these matters. The Russian Federation has postponed them. I would expect that after the elections Russia will find it more favorable to handle them. At present it seems that Russia's attitude is largely influenced by the upcoming Duma elections, perhaps also by the presidential elections which will spill into next year, so that it is very difficult to speculate here. But we have the support of very many countries as well as of international organizations for theses issues to be resolved as soon as possible. This, I am convinced, is in Estonia's interests, in the interests of Europe, northern Europe, and in the interests of European security. [end recording]

OSCE National Minorities Commissioner Received

LD2804083895 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In the Kadriorg [presidential residence] today President Lennart Meri received a delegation of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe [OSCE], headed by Max van der Stoel, the high commissioner for national minorities. The meeting was also attended by Andres Kollist, director-general of the citizenship and immigration department.

Max van der Stoel was interested in a comment by the president of the republic on a statement by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. Meri emphasized that Estonia must take this statement seriously.

Their discussion focused mainly on the situation in Russia, the Ukraine and the Crimea, and the human rights violations in Chechnya. Max van der Stoel emphasized that for his part he hopes to assist in building increased trust between Estonia and the Russian Federation. The president considered it necessary to explain that the Estonian citizenship and migration policy is uniform. The differences of opinion highlighted in the press are highly exaggerated.

This was a report by the presidential press service.

Russian CE Observers Criticize Meri's Remarks

WS2804094895 Tallinn BNS in English 1530 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Strasbourg, Apr 27, BNS—Members of Russia's guest delegation to the Council of Europe [CE] Parliamentary Assembly at a press conference on Thursday criticized remarks made by Estonian President Lennart Meri before the assembly on Tuesday [25 April].

Russian delegation members Vladimir Podoprigora and Alexander Dzhasokhov claimed that the situation of the non-citizen population in Estonia was failing to correspond to international norms and that abuses against the rights of Russians continued in Estonia.

The Russian representatives referred to "Estonia's latest legislative acts" as contributing to such alleged negative practices, but they declined to specify.

They said retired Russian military and their family members were having no rights whatsoever in Estonia despite the fact that a respective agreement had been signed between the countries.

Podoprigora and Dzhasokhov pointed out positively the recent policies of Latvia, saying that Baltic country had started to pay more attention recently to the rights of its Russian-speakers.

The Russian delegation members said that since the Estonian president had no respect to his country's parliament and government, it was also impossible for him to have good relations with neighbors. But again, the Russian representatives failed to explain in what they saw the Estonian president's lack of respect to government and parliament.

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Remarks by the representatives at Thursday's press conference showed Moscow was particularly angered by Meri's hailing of a resolution adopted by the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly in February, which said Russia cannot become a CE full member unless it guarantees observance of universally recognized democratic norms in its territory.

Meri said on Tuesday: "It is not clear why some circles are being emphatic about the need for Russia's speedy admission (to CE) at a time when more people get killed in Chechnya than in the war in the former Yugoslavia. The Council of Europe must continue its previous policy and promote the development of democratic reforms in Russia. There can be no doubt that Russia must become a member of the Council of Europe, but not before universally recognized human rights begin to be observed in that country."

'Jaager' Soldiers Disarmed, Leader Arrested

LD2804102795 Tallinn PAEVALEHT in Estonian 18 Apr 95 p1

[Unattributed report: "Jaager Men Disarmed"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Yesterday officers of the Defense Forces General Staff ran an operation in Kohila in the course of which the "jaager" men [light infantry soldiers originally based at Pullapaa who rebelled against central authorities in summer 1993] based locally were disarmed. Yesterday Hillar Mardo, the leader of the "Jaager" Party, was also detained as a suspect and placed in a police cell in Rapla.

According to unofficial sources, a commission was set up to carry out yesterday's operation by ex-defense minister Enn Tupp, his successor Andrus Oovel, and the operation had the approval of the Defense Forces commander Aleksander Einseln, Interior Minister Edgar Savisaar, and his predecessor Kaido Kama.

The proposal to the "jaager" men to lay down their arms came yesterday from Capt Riho Uhtegi, the new head of the second section (intelligence and counter-intelligence) of the Defense Forces General Staff. He was the man appointed to command the rebellious "jaager" company in the summer of 1993. After the company was disbanded it reassembled in Kohila. The latest information says that there were 30 to 40 "jaager" men there, and their main occupation was offering security services.

The "jaager" men surrendered the semi-automatic rifles and guns in their possession voluntarily and without resistance. [passage omitted]

As known to PAEVALEHT, the security police were also involved in the planning of yesterday's operation. Juri Pihl, its director-general said in a telephone interview: "This is how at last the issue of an illegally armed unit is resolved. I believe that it taking place peacefully. Hopefully such situations will not occur any more in the future and that gaps in legislation to which the 'jaager' company referred to in justification of its existence, will be filled." [passage omitted]

Trade Deficit Hits Record High

WS2804102495 Tallinn BNS in English 1530 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Apr 27, BNS—The deficit of Estonia's foreign trade in March was 704.2 million kroons, breaking the previous record of 665.3 million kroons reported for December last year.

Estonia exported 1,819.0 million kroons worth of goods and commodities in March, while imports totaled 2,523.2 million kroons. Exports in March were up by 232.0 million kroons from the previous month, with imports skyrocketing up by 511.9 million kroons over the same period.

In the first quarter this year, Estonia's exports totaled 5,045.3 million kroons, and imports, 6,564.5 million kroons. Imports exceeded exports by 1,159.6 million kroons in the January-March quarter.

First quarter's export was up 28 percent and import 27 percent from the respective three-month period a year ago.

Estonia traded in March with partners in 98 countries and had a positive balance with 53 of them.

The country's principal trade partners were:

	Percent of Total Exports			Percent of Total Imports	
	1st quarter	March		1st quarter	March
Russia	21.1	18.9	Finland	40.4	40.8
Finland	20.7	22.7	Russia	15.1	13.5
Sweden	11.7	12.0	Sweden	9.3	8.7
Latvia	7.3	7.3	Germany	8.2	8.4
Germany	6.1	6.8	Netherlands	3.6	3.5
Lithuania	4.4	4.8	Denmark	3.0	3.9

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The biggest rise was recorded in exports to Finland—107.2 million kroons, followed by Sweden with 31.6 million kroons and Germany with 31.5 million kroons.

Import from Finland grew by 236.1 million kroons, from Denmark by 46.6 million kroons, and from Germany, by 39.2 million kroons.

The major groups of exported and imported goods in the first quarter of 1995 were:

	Percent of Export		Percent of Import
farm products	15.5	farm products	14.0
timber, products	12.6	machinery, equipment	13.4
clothes	9.9	electrical equipment	9.3
non-precious metals	7.1	mineral fuel, oil	8.8
machinery, equipment	6.5	vehicles	8.4

Farm products topped the list of imports for March with 15.3 percent of the total. Next came machinery and equipment with 13.7 percent, and vehicles with 9.6 percent. Farm imports exceeded export by 119.4 million kroons.

Increase in one month over February was biggest in farm imports—117.7 million kroons. The import of machinery and equipment grew by 91.9 million kroons, and of vehicles, by 70.2 million kroons.

The customs statistics reflect goods on which duties are paid on the border. They don't take into account the cash import and export of foreign currency, the natural gas piped into Estonia, and the import and export of electricity.

Latvia

Ministry 'Bewildered' by Incident on Russian Border

LD2704194895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1817 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] RIGA, April 27 (Interfax)—Chief of the Latvian Migration Police Aivars Kurpnieks said he was bewildered by the actions of Russian border guards not letting to Russia five of the 15 illegal Asian immigrants whom the Latvian Interior Ministry had decided to deport to Russia on Wednesday.

The Latvian Interior Ministry said the Latvian police had documents proving that these people had illegally come to Latvia from Russia. Latvia said it proceeded from the agreement between the two countries' foreign ministries stipulating that Russia would accept such persons if Latvia proved that they had come from Russia.

The Latvian Interior Ministry said the illegal immigrants were now on the Zilupe border post in Latvia. Riga is now trying to reach an agreement with Russia on their transfer.

Saeima Speaker on Talks With European Parliament

LD2604142495

[FBIS Editorial Report] Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian at 0901 GMT on 26 April carries a 25 April interview with Saeima speaker Anatolijs Gorbunovs by correspondent Ainars Asaks on an interparliamentary meeting of the Council of Europe in Brussels. The speaker began with the following.

The speaker says the following:

"It was very important that the MPs from commissions participated there with their reports—from European Parliament commissions—they were with specific reports. And I was also pleased that we really represented the Latvian Saeima—its political spectrum, all the factions were represented."

Asked about how the Latvian delegation, which was taking part in such an interparliamentary meeting for the first time, was received, Gorbunovs says:

"Talks also touched upon the issues of Latvian security, i.e. external and internal security. And priorities which we are discussing here in Latvia, they also were mentioned there, in the European Parliament—that this—also a political dialogue on good neighborly relations and cooperation has to be continued in the Baltic Sea region, rather than with such confrontational elements which unfortunately exist and are voiced by the Russian side, which are voiced in our direction. Of course, appropriately assessing such statements, possibilities for cooperation in the Baltic region have to be put—and I think these priorities sounded well enough.

"Also perhaps about our internal security, that is about internal stability. And the fact that the factions were expressing different opinions, because they see this internal stability differently, that was also understandable to them and perhaps it was even good that they heard these different opinions and also the laws which we have passed—that is the vote of the majority of the Saeima."

The correspondent asks whether some kind of a resume was adopted on this meeting. Gorbunovs says:

"They set up a special delegation for cooperation with the Baltic states. And the most important resume is that in practice we have already begun a dialogue which they cleverly call a structured dialogue. And the dialogue has

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started and it will continue and I think rather soon, of course not before autumn [as received]."

After that the correspondent mentions that the Latvian delegation has also attended the North Atlantic Assembly. Gorbunovs comments:

"Frankly speaking, for the first time I heard such an open discussion about NATO affairs, future prospects for Latvia and also about relations between NATO and Russia, or more precisely, anxiety—or even stronger words might be used—expressed by Russia concerning NATO expansion—expansion towards the east. But at the same time, of course, it was also talked that Europe did not intend to increase confrontation with Russia, but quite the opposite—to cooperate, but cooperate not in such a way that Russia says what and how to do."

Asked about any reproach concerning the issue of refugees and violation of human rights, Gorbunovs says.

"Opinions were expressed that we had problems related to integration, that is getting involved—getting noncitizens involved in Latvia's political, public, and economic life."

Economy Constitutes Quarter of National Economy

LD2704110495 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1000 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] According to calculations carried out by the Finance Ministry, the shadow economy accounts for 25 percent of the Latvian national economy. In Hungary, for example, this indicator is 30 percent. Such a figure was mentioned by Janosz Szarvey, counsellor at the United Nations European Economic Committee for statistical affairs, who has arrived in Latvia to take part in a seminar today on the work of the shadow economy organized by the State Statistics Committee. [passage omitted]

Lithuania

Bobelis Condemns Council Report on Human Rights

LD2704162095 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1200 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the sitting of the Committee for Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Kazys Bobelis, chairman of the Seimas Foreign Affairs Committee, expressed his protest concerning the report presented by Gheorghe Frunda, member of the Council of Europe committee.

The report actually accuses Lithuania of serious human rights violations and we cannot agree with this, Kazys Bobelis told a news conference.

Gheorghe Frunda visited Vilnius in the middle of March on behalf of the above committee in order to examine how Lithuania is observing its commitments to the European Union which it undertook when entering the Council of Europe. George Frunda was received by Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas and by Seimas Chairman Ceslovas Jursenas. He also met members of Seimas committees and factions, officials of the Supreme Court and of the Constitutional Court, heads of the Ministry of Justice, leaders of the religious communities, and representatives of the national minorities. Gheorghe Frunda also visited Lithuanian prisons.

The official report by Gheorghe Frunda will be presented this summer at a regular session of the assembly. Preliminary conclusions, meanwhile, were presented by Gheorghe Frunda at the committee session. These conclusions were endorsed this week.

According to Kazys Bobelis, some statements made by Gheorghe Frunda imply that human rights are flagrantly violated in Lithuania. The Lithuanian delegation cannot agree with such a biased assessment of the situation in Lithuania, Kazys Bobelis said.

Gheorghe Frunda said that over the past three years Lithuania has not taken a single step to implement its commitments to the Council of Europe. Responding to this allegation, Kazys Bobelis reminded Gheorghe Frunda that Lithuania became member of the Council of Europe on 14 May 1993. Lithuania committed itself to observing international conventions and it is observing them, Bobelis said.

Meanwhile, according to Gheorghe Frunda, the general prosecutor's office of Lithuania continues to operate in the Soviet manner. Arrested persons do not have the possibility to consult a lawyer before the court hearings and they are not allowed to meet their relatives. Gheorghe Frunda noted that persons awaiting the death penalty are being kept in especially bad conditions. In his report, Frunda criticized the procedure for appointing attorneys in Lithuania.

Gheorghe Frunda also said that the rights of the believers among the national minorities are violated in Lithuania.

Kazys Bobelis told the news conference that the Lithuanian delegation will issue an official statement as soon as Frunda's report is officially presented to the Council of Europe. We will reject all accusations as totally unfounded, Bobelis stressed.

At the same time, Kazys Bobelis noted that conclusions presented in another report by Gheorghe Frunda are unbiased and favorable to Lithuania.

Accord Scheduled for Associate EU Membership

LD2704162395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1421 GMT 27 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VILNIUS, April 27 (Interfax)—On May 29 Lithuania will sign an agreement on

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associated membership with the European Union, Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys said on the national radio on Thursday with reference to preliminary information.

He described the upcoming event as a momentous historic occasion, an important step on the road of Lithuania's rapprochement with the European Union.

Lithuania will follow an even more active policy of integration into European structures, Gylys pointed out.

According to him, Lithuania's government is drafting a resolution on forming in its Foreign Ministry a European department, which is expected to begin its work in June. Its main function will be to develop comprehensive ties with the European Union and its member states, coordinate activity aimed at furthering trade relations and technical aid, and bring Lithuanian laws regulating economic and other activity into line with European standards.

Along with seeking to integrate into European political, economic and defense structures, Lithuania will follow a foreign policy designed to secure friendly relations with the neighbor countries, the foreign minister said.

With reference to the recent statement by his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev as to the possibility of using Russian armed forces to protect the rights of ethnic Russians abroad, Gylys described it as "absolutely unacceptable." This attitude was officially expressed to the Russian ambassador to Lithuania, who was requested to give the necessary explanation, he said.

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